

Hafa Adai!

Santos backs lifting fruit bat's threatened status. **PAGE 7**
FEMA completes first repair home in CNMI. **PAGE 8**

75¢

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ADVENTURE RIDE

Participants of the 3rd Annual Marianas Terrestrial Conservation Conference & Workshop enjoy a pre-conference proa (traditional canoe) ride provided by 500 Sails. The conference itself, which the CNMI hosted for the first time, was held last Nov. 18-21 at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan in Garapan.

Story on Page 3

IVA MAURIN

How the US betrayed the RMI

By SUSANNE RUST
LOS ANGELES TIMES

MAJURO, Marshall Islands—Five thousand miles west of Los Angeles and 500 miles north of the equator, on a far-flung spit of white coral sand in the central Pacific, a massive, aging and weathered concrete dome bobs up and down with the tide.

Here in the Marshall Islands, Runit Dome holds more than 3.1 million cubic feet—or 35 Olympic-sized swimming pools—of U.S.-produced radioactive soil and debris, including lethal amounts of plutonium. Nowhere else has the United States saddled another country with so much

of its nuclear waste, a product of its Cold War atomic testing program.

Between 1946 and 1958, the United States detonated 67 nuclear bombs on, in and above the Marshall Islands—vaporizing whole islands, carving craters into its shallow lagoons and exiling hundreds

of people from their homes.

U.S. authorities later cleaned up contaminated soil on Enewetak Atoll, where the United States not only detonated the bulk of its weapons tests but, as The Times has learned, also conducted a dozen biological weapons tests and dumped 130 tons of soil from an irradiated Nevada testing site. It then deposited the atoll's most lethal debris

See RMI on Page 4

IPI: Lien claim is time-barred

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC is asserting that its former contractor bid

Kilili's shark fin bill passes House

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Following the example of the Northern Marianas and 14 other U.S. states and territories, the U.S. House of Representatives approved yesterday legislation that bans buying or selling shark fins nationwide. The bill passed on a vote of 310-107.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Ca. Sablan (Ind-MP) introduced the Shark Fin Sales Elimination Act, H.R. 737, in



Sablan

January. Over the next 10 months, Sablan collected 287 cosponsors, the largest number for an ocean conservation bill so far in this Congress. He was joined in the effort by Rep. Michael McCaul (R-Texas). Numerous conservation organizations supported the legislation, along with 45 domestic and international airlines, 21 shipping

See SHARK FIN on Page 4

monwealth law.

A mechanic's lien refers to a security interest in the title to property for the benefit of those who have supplied labor or materials that improve the property.

See IPI on Page 4

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Rebel-Fi wants to change how product customizing and personalization works.

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ASIA

Defense chief Mark Esper does not regret postponing a U.S.-South Korean military drill.

PAGE 20



LIFE & STYLE

Genre-mashing new artists have caught the attention of the Recording Academy.

PAGE 24



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Local

NMI promoted as sport islands

The Marianas Visitors Authority's offshore marketing company for Japan is promoting the CNMI as a sport destination,

where tourists can enjoy many sports activities year-round.

Speaking at the MVA membership meeting at Saipan

World Resort's Royal Taga Hall last week, Access Inc. president Takashi Ichikura said that they have been highlighting many sports events in the Marianas as part of their new marketing strategy for 2020.

With the CNMI marketed as a chain of sport islands, visitors can refresh their body and soul in the Marianas, said Ichikura.

He said they have been working with Sports Nippon, Japan's premier sports newspaper, to package golf and other CNMI sports as travel packages. These include many of MVA's annual sporting events such as Hell of the Marianas and Saipan Marathon.

Last Oct. 11, MVA placed new destination images promoting the CNMI as sport islands on a wall display at the Shimbashi station in Tokyo. The advertisement will run through Sept. 30, 2020.

Ichikura said they have also designed "Let's Fly Saipan, New Saipan" logo. Using Skymark Airlines Inc.'s corporate colors, the logo symbolizes a rising sun that Ichikura said communicates that something new is happening in the CNMI.

Skymark's announcement last Oct. 29 of direct flights starting Nov. 29 was placed in an advertisement in the *Asahi* newspaper.

Media influencers have also been invited to visit the CNMI. (Ferdie de la Torre)

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Terrestrial conference advances CNMI conservation

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

About 120 scientists from Guam, Hawaii, and the U.S. mainland came together at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan this week to talk about biodiversity and wildlife conservation and management at the 3rd Annual Marianas Terrestrial Conservation Conference & Workshop.

The event, which the CNMI hosted for the first time last Nov. 18-21 at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, gathered together conservation experts to exchange ideas with local and international scientists working now in the CNMI.

Division of Fish and Wildlife director Manny Pangelinan, who welcomed the scientists at the conference, encouraged them to check out the parks, birds, and other wildlife that Saipan has to offer.

"Thank you to the biologists from near and far that are helping us understand how to manage our islands so people and species can co-exist. We appreciate the work you all do," Pangelinan said.

More than 25 researchers and agency professionals shared their conservation insights and science results, which ranged from endemic

birds to reptiles, to brown tree snakes and bats, to forests, freshwaters, and coral reefs.

DFW wildlife section supervisor Jill Liske-Clark, who was one of the volunteer-organizers, said the conference helps advance conservation in the Marianas.

"We do a great job locally and do the best we can but, with limited funding and people, we can only do so much," Liske-Clark said. "We have research questions and we need answers. We need these people to come help us answer those."

The conference also opened doors for scientists on the island to form connections to an even broader range of experts.

One of those experts able to connect with fellow scientists is Alexandra Quenga Kerr, a native of Guam who works for Colorado State University.

"It is especially important to make connections with our brothers and sisters in the CNMI, and to see what their methods and expertise are as well. Hopefully, I have been able to talk with a lot of people

and we've been able to share knowledge," Kerr said.

Conference participants also enjoyed pre-conference canoe rides, a Mariana swiftlet field trip, a Managaha Island tour, a lizard identification trip at American Memorial Park, tree planting at Micro Beach, and a tour of Jeffrey Beach.

Talks are in the works for Rota to host the conference in 2021.

About 120 scientists from Guam, Hawaii, and the U.S. mainland congregated on the island for the 3rd Annual Marianas Terrestrial Conservation Conference & Workshop that was held on Nov. 18-21 at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan in Garapan.

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Finance, NMC in talks about money owed

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Finance is in talks with the Northern Marianas College about pre-

vious obligations that amount to around \$2 million, according to interim NMC president Frankie Eliptico and Finance Secretary David Atalig.

Atalig noted that his of-

fice is in communication with Eliptico's office on making good on this financial obligation that originated from fiscal year 2019.

Atalig confirmed that his

department owes the community college about \$2 million from the previous fiscal year. "That is true and are part of the total obligations I still owe," he said in

a message. "I am in communications with the NMC president [Eliptico] to make amends on that."

Atalig indicated that both offices are close to a resolution.

"We...will continue to make transfers weekly to help their [NMC's] financial position," he said. Atalig did not respond when asked about other obligations his department owes.

Eliptico told *Saipan Tribune* that communication between the college and the department are going smoothly, that efforts are

being made to trim the total owed the college.

"We've had positive conversations with [Atalig] who has assured us that the CNMI Department of Finance will be able to transmit approximately \$1 million within the next few days," he told *Saipan Tribune*. "This amount will reduce significantly the total pending for [fiscal year] 2019, but it won't cover it all," he said, without elaborating.

"We will continue to work with his office to settle all pending transfers of funds," he added.

RMI

From Page 1

and soil into the dome.

Now the concrete coffin, which locals call "the Tomb," is at risk of collapsing from rising seas and other effects of climate change. Tides are creeping up its sides, advancing higher every year as distant glaciers melt and ocean waters rise.

Officials in the Marshall Islands have lobbied the U.S. government for help, but American officials have declined, saying the dome is on Marshallese land and therefore the responsibility of the Marshallese government.

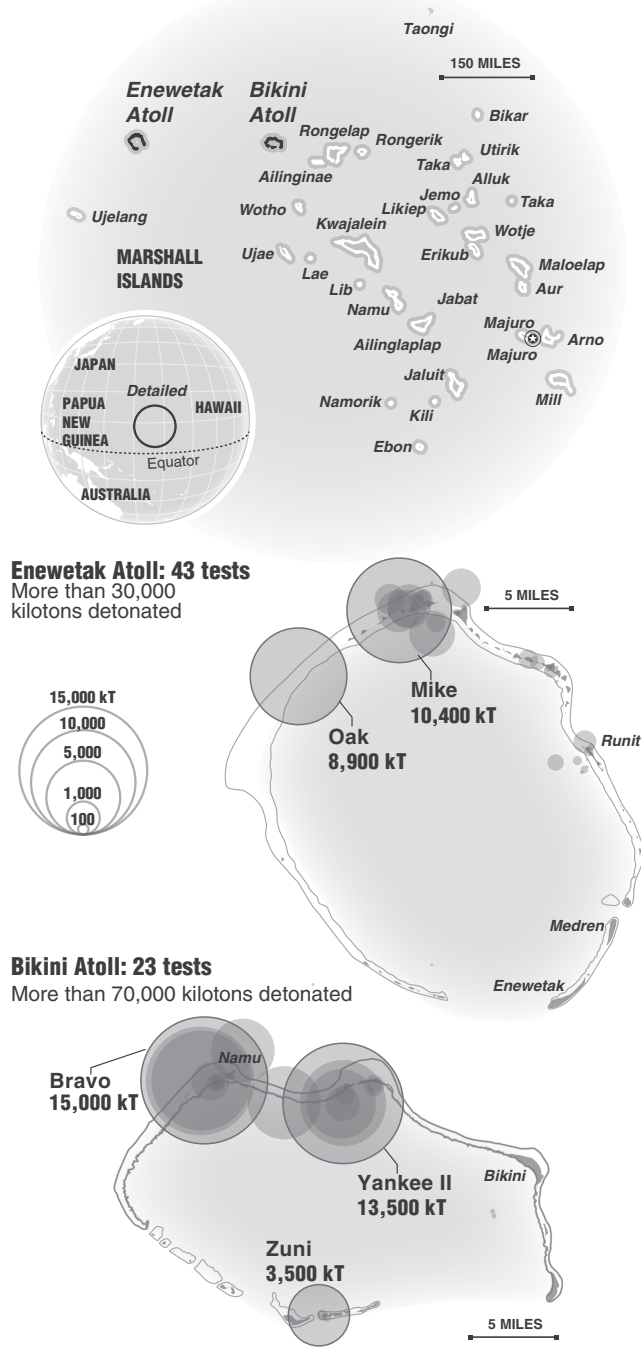
"I'm like, how can it (the dome) be ours?" Hilda Heine, the president of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, said in an interview in her presidential office in September. "We don't want it. We didn't build it. The garbage inside is not ours. It's theirs."

To many in the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Runit Dome is the most visible manifestation of the United States' nuclear legacy, a symbol of the sacrifices the Marshallese made for U.S. security, and the broken promises they received in return.

They blame the United States and other industrialized countries for global climate change and sea level rise, which threaten to submerge vast swaths of this island nation's 29 low-lying atolls.

"More than any other place, the Marshall Islands is a victim of the two greatest threats facing humanity—nuclear weapons and climate change," said Michael Gerrard, a legal scholar at Columbia University's law school. "The United States is entirely responsible for the nuclear testing there, and its emissions have contributed more to climate change than those from any other country."

The nuclear detonations over the Marshall Islands



Over the last 15 months, a reporting team from the Los Angeles Times and Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism made five trips to the Marshall Islands, where they documented extensive coral bleaching, fish kills and algae blooms—as well as major disease outbreaks, in-

cluding the nation's largest recorded epidemic of dengue fever. They interviewed folk singers who lost their voices to thyroid cancers and spent time in Arkansas, Washington and Oregon, where tens of thousands of Marshallese have migrated to escape poverty and an uncertain future. Marshallese leaders ac-

knowledge that America doesn't bear full responsibility for their nation's distress. But they say the United States has failed to take ownership of the environmental catastrophe it left behind, and they claim U.S. authorities have repeatedly deceived them about the magnitude and extent of that devastation.

A Los Angeles Times review of thousands of documents, and interviews with U.S. and Marshallese officials, found that the American government withheld key pieces of information about the dome's contents and its weapons testing program before the two countries signed a compact in 1986 releasing the U.S. government from further liability. One example: The United States did not tell the Marshallese that in 1958, it shipped 130 tons of soil from its atomic testing grounds in Nevada to the Marshall Islands.

U.S. authorities also didn't inform people in Enewetak, where the waste site is located, that they'd conducted a dozen biological weapons tests in the atoll, including experiments with an aerosolized bacteria designed to kill enemy troops.

U.S. Department of Energy experts are encouraging the Marshallese to move back to other parts of Enewetak, where 650 now live, after being relocated during the U.S. nuclear tests during the Cold War. But many Marshallese leaders no longer trust U.S. assurances of safety.

"We didn't know the Runit Dome waste dump would crack and leak. ... We didn't know about climate change," said Jack Ading, a Marshallese senator from Enewetak Atoll. "We weren't nuclear scientists who could independently verify what the U.S. was telling us. We were just island people who desperately wanted to return home."

claim it may have for a mechanic's lien is not barred by the 60-day limitations period. "IPI submits that the complaint, on its face, demonstrates the 60-day limitation period has lapsed, thereby meaning any amendment would be futile," he said, adding that the mechanic's claim or request should be dismissed with prejudice.

Dismissal with prejudice means Pacific Rim can no longer re-file the claim. In Pacific Rim's notice of lien, Thompson said the

unpaid amount that is owed Pacific Rim is \$5.65 million but it wants to collect from IPI approximately \$10 million in damages that would be proven at trial.

Pacific Rim is suing IPI and five unnamed alleged co-conspirators for breach of contract (construction and promissory note), and unjust enrichment.

Pacific Rim claimed to have substantially completed or completed the agreed upon construction work on Sept. 30, 2018.

SHARK FIN

From Page 1

companies, and more than 645 other U.S. businesses and organizations.

Fins from an estimated 73 million sharks are sliced off and sold in the global marketplace each year. And, largely due to this demand for fins, some shark species have now declined by more than 90%.

"Sharks are absolutely critical to the health of the oceans," Sablan explained during debate on the House floor yesterday. "As apex predators, they help maintain the balance of life by keeping prey populations in check."

Sharks are also critical to the tourism economy of many coastal communities, Sablan said. "In Florida alone, tourists, who go diving to see sharks, generate more than 200 times the value of the trade in shark fins for our entire country."

It is already illegal in the U.S. to take sharks solely for their fins. But because fins can still be imported for sale, the U.S. remains a contributor to the international trade.

"The survival of these majestic creatures is of great importance and this bill will help ensure they are around for decades to come," McCaul said. "I am proud to work alongside colleagues who have taken a stand against this atrocity [of shark finning]."

Eliminating that trade has been a priority for conservation advocates for years; and they praised yesterday's vote. "Oceana applauds the House for passing this important legislation," said Whitney Weber, director of the group's shark campaign. "Now it's time for the Senate to do the same."

The president of the Humane Society Legislative Fund, Sara Amundson, echoed those sentiments. "We thank [Reps.] Sablan and McCaul for introducing this important piece of legislation. By passing the Shark Fin Sales Elimination Act, the U.S. House of Representatives has taken a

significant step toward eliminating extinction of these remarkable creatures."

"Sharks have existed for hundreds of millions of years on this planet, and yet these remarkable apex predators now face one of the biggest threats to their survival because of the demand for their fins," said Cathy Liss, president of the Animal Welfare Institute.

"We are grateful to [Reps.] Sablan and McCaul for their steadfast leadership and urge the Senate to quickly pass the Shark Fin Sales Elimination Act, so that it can be signed into law."

The shark fin act was one of nine bipartisan, conservation bills the House passed yesterday. "Each piece of legislation represents the tireless work of the sponsor and the hope of the communities who will be impacted," said Rep. Raúl Grijalva (D-Arizona), chair of the Natural Resources Committee, which had jurisdiction over the legislation.

"From banning selling shark fins to protecting wetlands, I will continue advancing Democratic priorities that make a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of our planet," Grijalva said.

Sablan thanked McCaul, Grijalva, and all 310 members who voted for his bill. "However, the work is not over," he said. "The Senate must also act to pass this critical bill and get it to the President's desk so we can finally get our country out of the devastating global shark fin trade."

According to a statement from Animal Wellness Action, Sens. Cory Booker (D-NJ) and Shelly Moore Capito (R-WV) also introduced a companion bill that the Senate Commerce Committee has already approved.

"We shouldn't kill elephants for their ivory, rhinos for their horns, or sharks for their fins," said Wayne Pacelle, founder of Animal Wellness Action. "It is wasteful and barbaric, it imperils species and ecosystem health, and it degrades marine-based ecotourism and shark-diving experiences throughout the world." (PR, *Saipan Tribune*)

IPI

From Page 1

Indeed, Tydingco said, Pacific Rim in its opposition to IPI's motion for judgment on the pleadings, states that its application and notice to attach lien shall be filed with the U.S. District Court for the NMI in due time and in compliance with the statutory requirements.

Most notably, Commonwealth law has a 60-day limitation for filing a me-

chanic's lien, said Tydingco in IPI's reply filed Tuesday to Pacific Rim's opposition to IPI's motion.

Pacific Rim, through counsel Colin Thompson, filed the notice of lien that same day, Tuesday.

Tydingco said Pacific Rim does not dispute or deny this 60-day limitation in its response memorandum.

However, the lawyer said, Pacific Rim does not respond to the 60-day limitations issue or otherwise contend that any

SSA form to report imposter scam calls

A dedicated online form at <https://oig.ssa.gov> has been launched to receive reports from the public about Social Security-related scams.

These scams—in which fraudulent callers mislead victims into making cash or gift card payments to avoid arrest for purported Social Security number problems—skyrocketed over the past year to become the No. 1 type of fraud reported to the Federal Trade Commission and the Social Security Administration.

To combat these scams, Social Security and the Office of the Inspector General will use the new online form to capture data that will be analyzed for trends and commonalities. The OIG will use the data to identify leads, which could help identify criminal entities or individuals participating in or facilitating the scams. Ultimately, these efforts are expected to disrupt the scammers, help reduce this type of fraud, and reduce the number of victims.

SSA encourage the public to use the new online form to report Social Security phone scams including robocalls and live callers, as well as email, text, and in-person scams. The form allows people to create a unique Personal Identification Number so if OIG contacts a person about their report, they will know the call is legitimate.

SSA employees do occasionally contact people—generally those who have ongoing business with the agency—by telephone for business purposes. However, Social Security employees will never threaten a person, or promise a Social Security benefit approval, or increase, in exchange for information or money. In those cases, the call is fraudulent and people should just hang up.

Generally, the agency mainly calls people who have recently applied for a Social Security benefit, someone who is already receiving payments and requires an update to their record, or a person who has requested a phone call from the agency. If a person is not in one of these situations, they normally would not receive a call from the agency.

If there is a problem with a person's Social Security number or record, in most cases Social Security will mail a letter.

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DRUNK, DRUGGED, DROWSY, AND DISTRACTED DRIVING PREVENTION MONTH NMI govt gets behind anti-drunk driving campaign

Officers of the Department of Public Safety will be on the lookout for drunk, drugged, and distracted drivers throughout this holiday season as part of its "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaign.

With the entire month of December proclaimed as "CNMI Drunk, Drugged, Drowsy, and Distracted Driving Prevention Month," DPS urges the public to remember the hazards of impaired driving and to be vigilant against those who impaired while driving.

During yesterday's proclamation signing at the Office of the Governor, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said that DPS and its government partners will be out in force this holiday season to keep the CNMI roads safe through zero toler-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Officers of the Department of Public Safety pose with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios in front of the Office of the Governor after yesterday's proclamation signing of CNMI Drunk, Drugged, Drowsy, and Distracted Driving Prevention Month.

ance enforcement activities and providing the traditional Designated Driver programs.

The "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaign will be from Nov. 29, 2019, to Jan.

1, 2020.

From 2015 to the present, the CNMI recorded 347 alcohol-related crashes and nine alcohol-related traffic fatalities. CNMI also recorded

898 distracted driving crashes within the same period.

As part of the campaign, DPS promotes practices such as designating a sober driver, stopping impaired fam-

ily members and friends from getting behind the wheel, reporting impaired drivers to law enforcement authorities, and practicing safe driving. (Marc A. Venus)

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Lunch & Dinner	① 1 "Wed. / Fri. Lunch Buffet" G.C. for 2pax (\$44)	① 1 "Sunday Brunch" G.C. for 2 pax (\$64)	① 1 Wedding Cake (7inch, \$53) ② 1 "Sunday Brunch" G. C. for 2 pax(\$64)	① 1 Wedding Cake (7inch, \$53) ② 1 "Seafood Night" G. C. for 2 pax (\$80) ③ 1 free btl of Champagne for toast (\$30)
BIRTHDAY				
Lunch & Dinner	② 1 free Birthday Cake (7 inch / \$33)	① 1 free Birthday Cake (7 inch / \$33) ② 1 "Wed. / Fri. Lunch Buffet" G.C. for 2 pax (\$44)	① 1 free Birthday Cake (9 inch / \$53) ② 1 "Sunday Brunch" G.C. for 2 pax (\$64)	① 1 Birthday Cake (7inch, \$53) ② 1 "Seafood Night" G. C. for 2 pax(\$80) ③ 1 free btl of Champagne for toast (\$30)

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Email: smellcsaipan@gmail.com

Santos supports lifting bat's threatened status

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Rota senator supports lifting the endangered and threatened status of the Marianas fruit bat, citing a recent survey that noted the increased number of the animal's colonies throughout Rota.

In a letter to Dr. Joshua Guilbert, supervisor of the Division of Fish and Wildlife at the CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources, last Nov. 19, 2019, Sen. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota) noted that if the most recent survey proved the increase of population for the species, then she would fully support delisting the Marianas fruit bat as an endangered or threatened species.

"...The indigenous people have echoed their concerns for reconsideration with respect to cultural traditions for hunting and consumption purposes," Santos said in her letter.

She pointed out that alternative considerations must be made available for the continued cultural practices to maintain the indigenous population's unique identity.

The Marianas fruit bat is a

kind of bat that has an average lifespan of 30 years in captivity. It is also known as flying foxes or *fanihi* in Chamorro, and are medium-sized bats with dark brown fur. Males are larger than females, and the abdomen and wings are dark brown to black with individual gray hairs mixed throughout.

"The indigenous people of the Marianas fully understand the need to protect and conserve our valuable resources for the future of our Commonwealth. We are in full support to delist the Mariana fruit bat as an endangered/threatened species and agree that the species be protected with consideration to balance the concerns raised for cultural practices with the Endangered Species Act," she added.

According to the Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973, endangered means any species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range; threatened means any species that is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.



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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bishop Ryan P. Jimenez, center, holds the \$5,000 check donation from McDonald's Saipan to help rebuild the San Jose church on Tinian.

McDonald's gives to Tinian church repair

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

To help rebuild the parish's church that was damaged by Super Typhoon Yutu in October 2018, McDonald's Saipan recently donated \$5,000 to the San Jose Parish on Tinian.

The donation, made last Nov. 13 through Bishop Ryan P. Jimenez of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, will help fix the Tinian church, which sustained major damage.

"The Diocese of Chalan Kanoa is deeply grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Joe and Marcia Ayuyu of McDonald's for their donation," Jimenez said. "This money will be used for the continuing project to rebuild the San Jose Church.

The Ayuyu family has been very supportive to the diocese and for this, I thank the family for their generosity."

The church—with its broken windows, roofs, and doors—has to be rebuilt or rehabilitated. Rehabilitation is estimated to cost between \$300,000 and \$500,000, while the construction of a new one is estimated at \$1.7 million.

San Jose parish priest Fr. Rey D. Rosal earlier appealed to the community for donations in cash or in-kind like cement, rebars, or any other material that would help in the reconstruction effort.

To make a donation, contact the office of the Bishop of Chalan Kanoa at (670) 234-3000, or Rosal at (670) 287-0131.

FEMA completes first repair home in CNMI

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has completed repairing the first house in the Commonwealth under its Permanent Housing Construction Repair program.

The repaired home was turned over to the homeowner last Nov. 21 and included a repaired roof, smoke detectors, interior finishes, and hurricane shutters.

"FEMA, in conjunction with the CNMI governor, are pleased to announce the completion of the first repair home. With construction picking up across the island, we wanted to take a moment to acknowledge this milestone in our program," FEMA said in a statement yesterday.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres thanked FEMA for helping the CNMI not only through the PHC program, but also with other programs following the onslaught of Super Typhoon Yutu in October 2018.

"I want to thank FEMA for approving my request to make the PHC program available for our affected homeowners and their families. While we are still recovering from the devastation of Super Typhoon Yutu, the ongoing repairs and construction of homes brings renewed hope to the families who have been temporarily displaced by the storm. I also want to thank the many

volunteers and construction workers who have traveled here to help our community rebuild and recovery," he said in the FEMA statement.

The Permanent Housing Construction program is offered in insular areas outside the continental United States where alternative housing resources are unavailable or scarce, where repairs are neither feasible nor cost-effective.

Torres requested the program and FEMA approved and will finance and manage the repair home construction. Applicants have been approved on a case-by-case basis.

PHC-repaired homes are designed to codes and standards, including mitigation for typhoons, and are fully concrete, feature typhoon shutters, and a water catchment system. Approximately 157 eligible households have elected to participate in PHC-Repair Program, including 11 on Tinian.

All FEMA disaster assistance will be provided without discrimination on the grounds of race, color, sex (including sexual harassment), religion, national origin, age, disability, limited English proficiency, economic status, or retaliation. If you believe your civil rights are being violated, call 800-621-3362 or 800-462-7585(TTY/TDD). (PR)



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*The opt-in promotion ends on January 16, 2020. The promotion is open to members of the Mobil Smiles Driver Rewards™ program whose membership is registered in Saipan. Only online form submissions with the promotion code are eligible for the promotion. Bonus points will be credited to the Saipan member's account approximately 4 to 6 weeks after the Promotion Period. You may unsubscribe from receiving electronic promotional communications at any time. If you wish to opt-out from receiving promotional messages, please call our Mobil Smiles Driver Rewards Customer Service Center at 1-866-486-7751 and they will assist you.

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CUC to re-advertise new power engine purchase

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is going to re-advertise a bid process to acquire a new 8-13-megawatt generator set to replace a failed power engine at CUC's Power Plant 1 in Lower Base.

The first time when bids were sought for the project, the winning bidder did not follow the conditions of the advertisement in the request for proposals so CUC canceled the company's bid, said CUC executive director Gary P. Camacho Wednesday.

"So we have to re-advertise that," Camacho said.

The engine that needs to be replaced is engine No. 8.

Camacho said the committee that reviews bid proposals was satisfied with the cancellation of the original bid. He emphasized that the Office of the Attorney General is a member of that committee.

The request for submission of proposals for the replacement of that engine was supposed to end in October 2018, but CUC extended the deadline to Nov. 16, 2018, in the wake of Super Typhoon Yutu.

Camacho earlier stated that

Water line repair to be done today

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. said yesterday that repair work on a damaged water line that has affected the areas of Kannat Tabla, Chalan Kiya, Fina Sisu, El Toro Road, portions of As Perdido, As Lito, and Lower Dandan is expected to be finished today, Friday, Nov. 22, at 6am.

Customers in the affected areas should expect restoration of water services soon after.

CUC earlier reported that an 8-inch main water line was damaged, but it was confirmed later that it was a 14-inch water main line instead. CUC's water operations personnel are currently repairing the damaged waterline and it is taking longer than expected because of the extensive damage of the line.

For the safety of our men and women working at the site, motorists are advised to proceed with caution when traveling by the area.

CUC continues to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (PR)

CUC has the funds to buy a new engine.

In August 2008, engine No. 8 went down due to a water

pump problem, causing rotating outages across Saipan at that time.

CUC has stated that its strat-

egy to replace old engines as part of its five-year capital program will allow CUC to create a project to construct a

new power generating plant into which the new generator sets can transition to during its construction.

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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Strengthening agroforestry in the CNMI

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research, Extension and Education Services is working double time to ensure a strong food system in the CNMI—one that is not so highly dependent on imported products.

“The main goal is to promote a more resilient food system [on] our islands,” said NMC-CREES extension agent Solly Takai.

Toward this end, about 90 individuals from different organizations participated in NMC-CREES’ Agroforestry Workshop last week at the Kanoa Resort, which included presentations from both homegrown and Hawaii experts, plus an actual agroforest planting immersion at a CREES farm in As Perdido.

“We have seen many storms and, with the whole climate changing, we are trying to have a stronger food system where people can just harvest food in their backyard, whether it be fruit trees or vegetables and root crops,” Takai said.

Dr. Craig Elevitch, Shirley Kauhahao, and Neil Logan from Hawaii, as well as NMC-CREES interim dean Patricia Coleman and horticulture

scientist Dr. Veranda Varma, shared their agroforestry experiences and knowledge, along with some of the basic fundamentals in maintaining and managing an agroforest plot.

Participants learned fundamental design principles, planning and customization of an agroforest from scratch, and maintaining and managing existing plots.

The two-day event was hosted by the Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program.

NMC-CREES is also working with other government agencies, such as the Division of Agriculture, to promote agroforestry in the communities.

Takai said there already are interested individuals and schools that want to start their own agroforest plots, and some community gardeners that want an agroforest integrated in their garden plot.

“CREES will be there to provide technical assistance, and will do further training on different agroforestry topics and subjects, whether it be composting, mulching, pruning, all these different management techniques,” Takai added.

For more information and to be part of the agroforestry initiative on the islands, contact Takai at 234-3276.

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IPI owner said to unload 5% stake in casino firm

By STEVEN STRADBROOKE
[HTTPS://CALVINAYRE.COM/](https://calvinayre.com/)

The owner of troubled Saipan casino operator Imperial Pacific International is selling off a major chunk of the company amid an FBI money laundering and corruption probe.

On Tuesday, IPI informed investors that the company's controlling shareholder Inventive Star Ltd was selling 7b IPI shares, representing around 4.9% of the company's issued share capital, to a company identified only by Chinese characters 進英投資有限公司.

Inventive Star, which held a 63.47% share of IPI prior to the transaction, will now hold a 58.58% stake in IPI. Inventive Star is owned by Chinese national Cui Li Jie, who also serves as an IPI executive director and, as of January, occupies the chairperson's seat.

This is the second major IPI share sale Cui has attempted in a little over four months, having tried to unload 14b IPI shares to Guan Lian Capital Holdings in July. But that announcement cited the same pre-transaction share percentage as Tuesday's filing, suggesting that the profit warning IPI issued one month later may have proven to be a deal-breaker for Guan Lian.

In May, IPI announced that it had received a \$500 million cash infusion from a mysterious Japanese firm (GCM Ltd) although very little in the way of additional information has been forthcoming on this front. The company has also demonstrated an inability or unwillingness to pay its bills on time, suggesting all is not well in the Imperial Palace.

Cui's latest selloff comes as IPI finds itself the subject of an FBI probe of suspected money laundering, fraud and illegal political contributions that has also ensnared Ralph DLG Torres, governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. IPI has previously been linked with paying millions of dollars to Torres' family members, often in connection with land deals.

On Monday, local media quoted an FBI receipt for property indicating that this month's raid on IPI's offices resulted in the seizure of 34 computer hard drives, 15 laptops, and a variety of documents, including vendor payment checks, CNMI tax payments, petty cash records, journal entries, and lease payments.



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NEWS BRIEFS

HPO moves to temporary office

The Historic Preservation Office, a division of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, has temporarily relocated its office to Unit 16 of the Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai.

The HPO office on Tun Herman Pan Road in an old World War II bunker was damaged by Super Typhoon Yutu and is unsafe for occupancy, hence the move. HPO is preparing for the search for a contractor to do the renovations.

"The bunker will undergo a complete renovation to fix plumbing, flooring, electrical damages and to rebuild the shop and repository that were destroyed by Yutu," said State Historic Preservation officer Rita Chong-Dela Cruz.

HPO is a regulatory agency

that promotes the preservation, protection and education of the historic and cultural heritage of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Regular office hours are Monday to Friday, 7:30am to 4:30pm. For any questions or for more information about HPO, call 664-2120. **(PR)**

4.9-magnitude quake near Agrihan

A 4.9-magnitude earthquake occurred 60 kilometers west-northwest of Agrihan in the Northern Mariana Islands at 5am yesterday, Nov. 21, 2019. Currently, no tsunami warnings or advisories are issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000. **(PR)**

Head Start program seeks volunteers

The Head Start/Ear-

ly Head Start Program is seeking volunteers from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to serve as community representatives for the SY 2019-2020 Head Start Policy Council.

Community representatives are required to be familiar with resources and services for low-income children and families; cannot be an employee or immediate relative of an employee for the CNMI Public School System; and may not have already served five terms on the Head Start Policy Council.

The deadline for interest is Dec. 6, 2019. Interested community members should email a brief letter of interest and resume to hsehs@cnmipss.org. The election of community representatives will be held during the next regular meeting of the Head Start Policy Council.

Should you have any questions or need additional infor-

mation, contact Jolene Sablan at jolene.sablan@cnmipss.org or call 323-7446/664-3751. **(PR)**

Pacific radiation survivors' group meeting

HAGÁTÑA—The Pacific Association for Radiation Survivors will be holding its general membership meeting on Saturday, Nov. 23, 2019, from 11am to 1pm at the Government House in Agana Heights.

PARS is a non-profit organization lobbying since 2002 for the inclusion of Guam as downwinders in the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act, a program approved by the U.S. Congress, providing compensation to those who are subjected to nuclear radiation.

PARS continues to seek compensation for the people of Guam who have developed cancer and other illnesses

caused by the fallout during the United States Pacific nuclear testing conducted from 1946-1962.

If you lived on Guam between 1946 to 1962 and have been affected by cancer, you are encouraged to attend. The public is also welcome to attend to learn more about PARS efforts.

For more information, contact PARS president Robert Celestial at 688-7277 or email parsguamdownwinders@gmail.com. **(PR)**

Notice to all CNMI veterans

The Guam Vet Center will be conducting a Registration Drive and Outreach tomorrow, Nov. 22, 2019, from 12pm to 2pm at Tronkun Daok in Susupe and on Nov. 23, 2019 (TBA). If you may have any questions, contact

(671) 472-7161. **(PR)**

Hours today at Guma' Hustisia

Construction and site remediation work at the Guma' Hustisia will require the partial closure of the service windows today, Nov. 22, 2019. Hours of operation for the Office of the Clerk of Court, Commonwealth Recorder and the cashier services at the Guma' Hustisia will be from 7:30am to 11:30am and closed all afternoon. All other Judiciary offices will maintain regular business hours. **(PR)**

MIFICPA silver jubilee tomorrow

The Marianas Institute of Filipino CPA and Accountants will be celebrating its silver jubilee tomorrow, Nov. 23, from 6pm to 10pm at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. **(PR)**

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB20-DLNR/DFW-012**

SUBMISSION DATE: NOVEMBER 29, 2019 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

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COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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/S/ ANTHONY T. BENAVENTE
SECRETARY, DLNR

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

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**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP20-CHCC/HEMODIALYSIS-002**

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 20, 2019 TIME: 10:00 AM

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INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **RFP's** TAB ON THE BOTTOM NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORAZON P. ADA
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP20-CHCC/RESPIRATORY CARE-001**

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 20, 2019 TIME: 10:00 AM

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORAZON P. ADA
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

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TO REGISTER:
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For more information, visit our website at www.pacificsbdc.com or call **CNMI SBDC Office at 664-3018**

MARKETING

STRATEGY ACTION PROMOTION SUCCESS CHANGE GROWTH

Nicole Babauta
Director & Business Advisor
CNMI SBDC

Date: November 26, 2019
Time: 9:30AM- 11:30AM

FREE TRAINING

Location:
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Building # 1223
Capitol Hill

Presented by:

DISCLAIMER: The Pacific Islands SBDC Network is funded in part through a co-operative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration. All opinions, conclusions or recommendations expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the SBA. Requests for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made if requested at least two weeks in advance. Language assistance services are available for limited English proficient individuals with enough advance notice. For arrangements, please contact Lorie Pangilinan, P.O. Box 5795 CHRB, Saipan MP 96950 Tel: (670)664-3018 or Email lorie@pacificsbdc.com. Services are extended to the public on a non-discriminatory basis.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

**EMERGENCY REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-20-004**

FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2019, 2020 & 2021

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for services of a U.S. Certified Public Accounting Firm/Individual with knowledge, skill, and experience in auditing (1) financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and auditing standards of the U.S. and; (2) federal awards programs in accordance with the Single Audit Act and U.S. Office of Management and Budget requisites

- Provide assistance to the CUC management with the preparation of the annual financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America
- Ensure that the financial statements and auditor's reports also meet any specific requirements contained in agreements or other contractual requirements relative to financial statement presentation and the audits.
- Submit the draft financial statements and accompanying auditor's reports to CUC management no later than January 31st of each year, and issue the final reports no later than February 28th of each year.
- Provide 15 bound copies of the final financial statements and accompanying auditor's report
- Provide an electronic copy (e.g., .pdf format) of the final report to the CUC.

Auditors are responsible to review the 2019, 2020 & 2021 financial statements to include the physical CUC assets for each fiscal year.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one RSOQ package set. The \$100 package fee will be waived for firms that had previously registered and paid for a CUC-RFP-19-037 package.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the Proposal & One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the Cost Proposal must be submitted in a separate sealed envelopes marked "CUC-RFP-20-004, Financial and Compliance Audit for Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2019, 2020 & 2021" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **December 23, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional RFP will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the RFP requirements in the course of proposer's preparation of the RFP under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the RFP under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 10, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Greg Cruz, CUC Chief Financial Officer, via email greg.cruz@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said RFP; if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



17th Annual Christmas in The Marianas

Saturdays,
Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14, 21, & 28, 2019 • 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM
Paseo De Marianas, Garapan, Saipan

COTA will be providing shuttle services from the American Memorial Park*Parking Lot to the event site and back.



COTA SHUTTLE SERVICES SCHEDULE

Nov. 30 & Dec. 7, 14, 21, & 28, 2019		
	AMP TO PDM	FIESTA RESORT (CROSSWALK) TO AMP
A	5:00PM	5:10PM
B	5:15PM	5:25PM
A	5:30PM	5:40PM
B	5:45PM	5:55PM
A	6:00PM	6:10PM
B	6:15PM	6:25PM
A	6:30PM	6:40PM
B	6:45PM	6:55PM
A	7:00PM	7:10PM
B	7:15PM	7:25PM
A	7:30PM	7:40PM
B	7:45PM	7:55PM
A	8:00PM	8:10PM
B	8:15PM	8:25PM
A	8:30PM	8:40PM
B	8:45PM	8:55PM
A	9:00PM	9:10PM
B	9:15PM	9:25PM
A	9:30PM	9:40PM

Dec. 14, 2019 - CHRISTMAS PARADE

	AMP TO GARAPAN FISHING BASE	GARAPAN FISHING BASE TO AMP
	4:00PM	4:15PM
	4:30PM	4:45PM
	5:00PM	JOIN THE PARADE

American Memorial Park (AMP) to Paseo De Marianas (PDM)
Every 15 minutes from 5:00 PM to 9:30 PM

Paseo De Marianas (PDM) to American Memorial Park (AMP)
Every 15 minutes from 5:10 PM to 9:40 PM

PROGRAM LINE-UP FOR NOV. 30, 2019

5:00 - 5:30 PM	Awadori
5:30 - 6:00 PM	Judging on-going for Christmas Trees
6:00 - 6:10 PM	Illumination of Christmas Trees
6:10 - 6:20 PM	Opening Remarks
6:20 - 7:15 PM	Christmas Tree Contest Description
7:15 - 7:35 PM	Kagman Elementary
7:35 - 7:50 PM	Green Meadow
7:50 - 8:05 PM	Kobler Elementary
8:05 - 8:20 PM	Oleai Elementary
8:20 - 8:35 PM	San Vicente Elementary
8:35 - 8:50 PM	Mount Carmel School
8:50 - 9:05 PM	Saipan International
9:05 - 9:20 PM	Grace Christian Academy
9:20 - 9:35 PM	Agape Christian School
9:35 - 9:50 PM	Green Meadow Middle School

**Program Line-up is Subject to Change*

+1.670.664.3200 info@mymarianas.com www.mymarianas.com
 @MyMarianas @TheMarianas

Saturday, November 30, 2019
Illumination of Christmas Tree Lights
Elementary Schools Caroling Contest

Saturday, December 7, 2019
Junior High & High Schools Caroling Contest

Saturday, December 14, 2019
Christmas in The Marianas Parade
 Assembly time is at 4:30 PM at Garapan Fishing Base.
 Parade starts at 6:00 PM from Garapan Fishing Base to Paseo De Marianas.
Costume Contests
Awards Presentation for Contests

Saturday, December 21, 2019
Skymark Night
Christmas Countdown
Skymark Raffle Drawing
Skymark Night Contest Announcement

Saturday, December 28, 2019
Mochitsuki Festival
CHCC: Holiday Rock'n in ASL
Closing of Christmas in The Marianas

SPECIAL THANKS TO
 Department of Lands and Natural Resources (DLNR) • Department of Public Lands (DPL) • Department of Public Safety (DPS)
 Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services (DFEMS) • Lollipop's • Hard Rock Cafe Saipan
 Furusato • Century Tours • Century Tours / iShop • McDonald's of Saipan

YOUR WING. SKY



SKYMARK Night Contest

Prizes

- 1st** \$500 Cash & MVA Giveaways
- 2nd** \$200 Cash & MVA Giveaways
- 3rd** \$100 Cash & MVA Giveaways

Build a replica of a SKYMARK airplane out of recycled materials!
 Paints are okay to use. (Search for SKYMARK airplanes online for actual images)

All sculptured planes along with registration form must be submitted to the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) Office by December 12, 2019, before 4:00 p.m. Registration forms are available at the MVA Office.

The dimension of the plane must be no more than 4 ft. in width and 4 ft. in length.

Contestants will be judged based on originality, detail, creativity, and neatness. Contestants may be disqualified due to not complying with contest rules. Judging will be based on a point system.

The winners will be announced at the SKYMARK Night event during the 17th Annual Christmas in The Marianas on December 21, 2019.

For more information, please email info@mymarianas.com or call the MVA Office at +1.664.3200/01.

@MyMarianas @TheMarianas www.mymarianas.com

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXIX, Issue No. 231

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Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Move quickly on FAA safety reforms

Boeing and the Federal Aviation Administration appear to be making significant progress on 737 MAX safety. But much work remains to improve federal policy guiding aircraft certification.

Shortcomings were revealed, and troubling questions about Boeing raised, as the press, technical experts and Congress examined system flaws leading up to crashes of 737 MAX planes in Ethiopia and Indonesia, killing 346 people.

Congress must hold the FAA accountable and move quickly to improve its governing legislation. The FAA must also be transparent and expeditious as it improves the certification process. The urgency of this work will not be reduced after the 737 MAX returns to service, expected early next year.

Changes are needed, and not just for safety. They're necessary to restore the credibility of the U.S. regulatory system, which must be trusted globally as providing a reliable seal of approval on U.S.-built airplanes and other products.

That reputation is seriously tarnished by revelations that the FAA relinquished too much product-certification authority to manufacturers.

The agency must explain publicly how it's implementing safety recommendations of the National Transportation Safety Board and an international technical review panel convened in June.

U.S. Sen. Maria Cantwell and U.S. Rep. Rick Larsen, both Washington state Democrats, are pressing for hearings with the FAA, potentially in December. Cantwell is seeking legislation mandating the NTSB recommendations, including better analysis of how pilots may respond to unexpected events when operating complex integrated systems.

As vehicles are increasingly automated and computerized, regulators must incorporate the latest knowledge of how people interact with, and may be overwhelmed by, the flurry of information generated when things go wrong.

Cantwell is proposing a research center to advance this work. Seattle would be an ideal place, given its concentration of expertise in software, aerospace and human-centered design and engineering.

The FAA may need additional funding, but money alone isn't the answer. Policy and process improvements are also needed. A House investigation recently found that FAA experts identified concerns about the safety of 737 cable placement and 787 lightning protection, but were overruled by their managers.

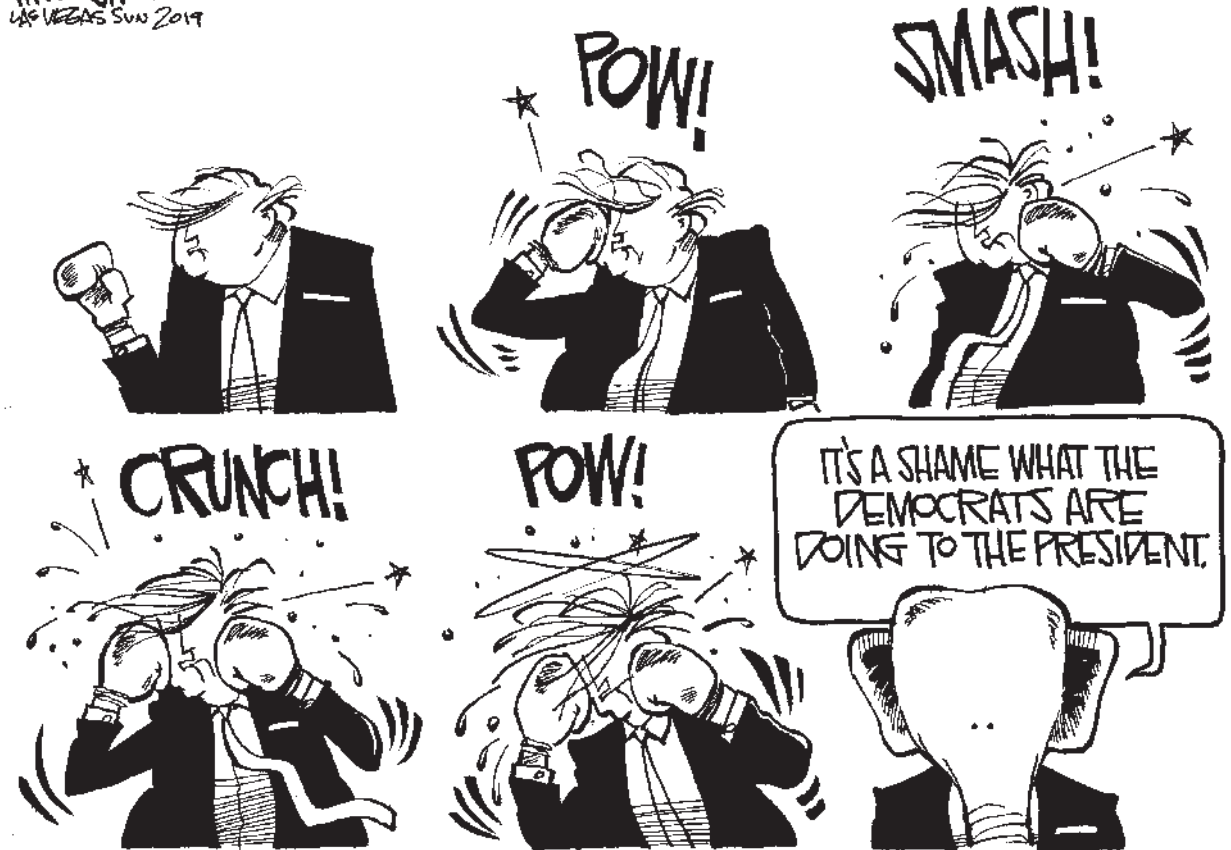
Legislative changes are needed to control how much leeway the FAA has to delegate oversight to companies it's regulating. While this delegation is a longstanding practice, in place as the aviation industry greatly improved safety in recent decades, reporting by the Seattle Times' Dominic Gates revealed how it has evolved to give manufacturers more authority. This creates a vulnerability when manufacturers are overly influenced by cost concerns and rushed, as Boeing management apparently was with the 737 MAX.

"You look at all of the data points and it points very clearly at the need to pull back some of this authority," said Larsen, an Everett Democrat chairing the House subcommittee on aviation.

See MOVE on Page 15

MIKE SMITH
LAS VEGAS SUN 2019

DIST. BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE/ANAS



Will he sell us out?

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres recently spent a good deal of time in Hawaii being feted and entertained by the U.S. Department of Defense. First class treatment all the way, and a front row seat to watch the toned-down-for-a-civilian sales job version of live fire training. They even let him pat the shiny new cannons and rockets with a stem glass of Mouton Cadet, pinky properly raised, in the other hand.

Joking aside, because this is no joke, live fire training exercises are not compatible with a tourist-based economy. We are a tourism-based economy. Live fire training will kill off 70 % of it.

Tinian will wind up with all the negative things about military occupation but won't even have the somewhat dubious distinction of having a real military base with a payroll and some perks and bennies to subdue the local residents. No, Tinian will get the PCBs and the depleted uranium and the destroyed ecosystem and the bombing range craters and jet strafing and tanks driving around blowing stuff up but won't get the money. That conveniently stays on Guam with the clean part of the military operation. Tinian gets the shaft. Guam gets the cream. Tinian will have very few tourist arrivals as long as live fire training is held there. Only hardcore World War II history buffs. Expect no new economic development on Tinian except perhaps a couple of bars and a couple of cat houses near the shooting range for the use of off-duty military. The Marines will bring in their own food and very few of them will have off-duty time to spend checking out Tinian; they'll all be working/training/blowing stuff up.

Pagan will look like FDM in five or 10 years, a burned out, stripped, bomb-cratered remnant of its former self, "unsuitable for human habitation." Right now Pagan represents hope for the small population that was born there and wants to repatriate that beautiful island. Pagan also represents hope for the future of CNMI tourism, first as an ecotourism destination and later, with the slow buildup of some basic infrastructure, a full-blown black sand paradise destination island. That is the kind of diversified, sustainable new destination attraction that can revitalize and grow our NMI tourism market. But not if they are bombing it and driving amphibious assault vehicles over the reefs, killing the ecosystem as they go.

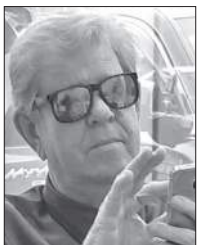
But Bruce, we'll still have Saipan where most of the tourists

SOUR GRAPES

By BRUCE BATEMAN

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Bruce A. Bateman resides on Saipan with a wife, a son, and an unknown number of boonie dogs. He has owned and operated a number of unusual businesses and most recently worked as the marketing manager for MVA. Bruce likes to read, travel, tinker with bicycles, hike, swim, and play a bit of golf. He is opinionated and writes when the moon is full and the mood strikes.



go, right? Well, no. We'll have a very small slice of what we have now. None of the southern Saipan resorts will survive day and night bombing and strafing noise and light pollution. Tourists don't like vacationing within sight and sound of military bombing exercises. Those who do come go home with tales of military occupation next door, plus noise and instability causing even further drops in visitor arrivals. Even the northern Saipan resorts will be affected as airspace into and out of Saipan has to be shared with military traffic into and out of Tinian's "divert" training facility near the airport and will have to close down completely when certain types of live fire events are going on. Guess who has the airspace priority? Military training or regularly scheduled civilian air service carrying visitors and tourists. Who pays the FAA? Nuff said.

Expect very little new development on Saipan. None in the south and not much in the north. Sheila will be happy. The rest of us, not so much.

Gov. Torres is already talking about looking forward to "a lot of discussions" to work out the details of the "mutually beneficial partnership" with DoD, indicating that yes, he has already committed Tinian and Pagan to them and now it will take those discussions and undoubtedly plenty of first-class fact-finding trips hither and yon to get the sad, dirty job done. The answer to the title of this piece is sadly, yes, he will and already has sold Tinian and Pagan to the feds. As to the price, I'm sure he will be outwitted as were his predecessors back in the '70s when DoD

See WILL on Next Page

Clarity and direction!

The echo of the '79 casino industry sailed home quietly without issue. Didn't hear any opposition. It has landed on the shore without notice.

Business and political players that peddled it have basically gone home too. Seems their homework is done!

Through thick and thin we've muddled through our Holy Grail or saving grace, founded on our lasting culture of sharing. It's the most powerful common denominator we've had since time begun. We're still here, aren't we?

As our casino floats in the open sea, Japan is setting up several cities to establish its own casino industry. It means it would cater to the wealthy and keep them at home. What's its implication here?

Daily

Sitting alone at the dirty kitchen at dawn, I'd wait for the neighbors to turn off their lights before I follow suit. It's also the time to check the news to see what's up both at home and at the geopolitical village.

I'd keep my hope floating in hopes of hearing an announcement in the form of a plan to move things forward. But there's nothing up that alley. Or is a plan in progress for eventual dissemination?

Said Magoo, "Try 'que sera' for now!" And so I took some shade underneath the coconut tree to wait for Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's.

Probing

Occasionally, the silence in the air turns intuition into the active

MOVE

From Page 14

Boeing is rightly overhauling its practices to prevent financial considerations from overriding safety concerns. But it's unclear whether it has gone far enough to restore its past culture, in which quality was paramount over shareholder value.

Regardless of how fast Congress moves, the FAA must explain how it's addressing weaknesses in the certification process that the 737 MAX tragedies revealed.

Aviation analyst Scott Hamilton said there's an opportunity to demonstrate improvements with the new 777X that's being manufactured in Everett.

Certification work on the 777X has started but the process may take until late 2021 to complete. Then there's the long-awaited 797 that Boeing has yet to confirm.

Congress and the FAA must immediately reform the certification process to maximize safety as aerospace and automation continue their rapid advance.

(c)2019 The Seattle Times

WILL

From Page 14

wrangled the whole FDM island and the northern half of Tinian for less than a dollar an acre for 99 years. Not bad rent—a penny a year. Maybe Ralph will get 2 cents.

In a previous column I suggested that if we were going to sell off Pagan, we should do so at a price that was as important to the buyers as the loss of another one of our precious 14 islands is to us in the NMI. They get an island, we get financial independence. I suggested a minimum starting lease of \$1 billion per year. There should be an escalation clause for increasing that amount as inflation reduces the worth of rents received. The majority, say 80% of the rent, should be deposited to the benefit of the NMD owners in a land trust account with 20%, or \$200 million, going to the general fund to operate the central NMI government. That sounds a lot better than 2 cents or 10 cents of whatever quid pro quo Gov. Torres can talk them out of. Do I think we should sell our precious islands, to be ruined forever by the DoD for the 30 pieces of silver? No, I don't. But since he has already given DoD the nod-and-wink that it's a done deal, I say let's at least get properly paid for being screwed.

Thanks for reading Sour Grapes!

"The difference between stupidity and genius is that genius has its limits."

—Albert Einstein

"The aim of military training is not just to prepare men for battle but to make them long for it."

—Louis Simpson

mode. It grants time to check what's happening near and far.

I'd ponder if there were efforts to move the needle of growth forward to improve the quality of life in the villages. Or did it slide into the usual "It's Christmas in the islands" the old Chamorro way?

The issue is simple to discern: Look into your conscience to see if you've fulfilled fiduciary duty. You don't have to employ disorienting algebraic equation to figure out the embarrassing negligence!

Ooops!

Impeachment is a serious issue that requires a sense of responsibility before inflicting ruination on the targeted politician and the reputation of our fledgling government.

The issue should be turned inward where we ask timely queries, e.g., do we need 29 half-cocked lawmakers; a huge government bureaucracy when funds wasted should have been funneled for meaningful programs for villagers?

An interesting issue often treated with the usual "not yet, already" syndrome. In brief, we see an issue requiring timely resolution but we eye it from a distance hoping some dumb volunteer steps forward. Nah! Must resolve issues on a timely basis!

Drive

I'd cruise up north on the upper artery then return via the more panoramic Beach Road. There's no greater scenery than the calm waters that stretches out to the reef against the horizon.

There's the colorful sunset at dusk, birds returning home after a day at sea, and boats surfing on huge waves to make it to the harbor before dark. Simply "outta sight!"

I've seen beautiful shorelines in other island nations north and south of the equator. But nothing comes close to the lovely shore on the front side of the island. Whether you're on a canoe or motorized boat approaching the shore, you're headed to paradise! What beautiful sight at sunset.

Each destination on the islands has its unique feature be-

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Woman forced to take pregnancy test for flight to Saipan

I have lived on Saipan for 18 years of my life. I studied here from Kindergarten to high school, engaged deeply with the community and spent my entire childhood on this island I consider to be home. Yet, whenever I return to visit family and friends, I am considered to be a "visitor"—I'm questioned on the purpose of my visit, how long I intend to stay and whether I have a ticket departing Saipan. It feels strange to be called a tourist in a place that has been a huge part of your life. But frustrating as it is, I have accepted (or rather, have no choice but to accept) that this is standard protocol since I no longer have residency.

Despite being a frequent flyer to Saipan, none of my previous experience would have prepared me for what happened during my most recent flight: take a pregnancy test or be denied boarding. On Nov. 9, 2019, I flew from Hong Kong International Airport to Saipan on a flight operated by Hong Kong Express Airways Limited. Before check-in, I filled out a mandatory questionnaire and one of the questions asked if I was pregnant, to which I responded "No." Imagine my disgust when I was informed at the check-in counter that I was "randomly" selected to undergo a "fit-to-fly" medical assessment. After clarifying that this test was indeed administered to a random female passenger and needed to be completed in order to board my flight, I was handed a medical records release form to sign. However, upon closer examination of the form, it was evident that I was not randomly chosen based on the following statement: "In our routine initial safety assessment by our ground handling staff, we have reasonable suspicion on the health condition of the passenger above. The passenger has been observed to have a body size/shape resembling to a pregnant lady."

Obviously, they suspected I was pregnant and trying to conceal this to board the flight. Never mind the fact that I had already explained I was only staying on Saipan for 20 days to see my parents and even showed them my departing flight. I was then led by a female in plainclothes, who claimed to be the medical practitioner, to a public restroom. I was handed a pregnancy test and when the result came out negative, she failed to record this on the medical form and instructed me to throw the test into the trash. Satisfied that I had no baby in me, the airline staff finally issued me a boarding pass.

I am truly appalled by the entire situation: the questionable

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.



tween the rain garden of Pohnpei and the rock islands of Belau. I've seen Nan Madol, supposedly the graveyard of earlier royal family. In brief, the entire region is a collection of lovely pearly isles.

Belau has so many pristine isles in what's known as the Rock Islands where you could have a pearly rock to yourself. Fish is aplenty and the inviting blue water is where you dip to cool off.

About the only troubled visit I had was the 1974 trip to Rongelap and Utirik in the Republic of the Marshall Islands. To this day I pray for our brothers and sisters who had to endure unsolicited and destructive fatal illnesses from an arrogant experimentation.

Natting

Money or its insufficiency has gradually taken its seat here. It's good to hear announcements to bring it under control.

Simultaneously, we turn right around and continue loose spending. Why the humiliating incoherence? Is this something we could reconcile forthwith? Or "not yet, already?"

EVERbody home?

It's deafening the silence that spreads to the villages from Da Hills of Saipan. We've listened intently for some encouraging tidings that would stir some excitement of opportunities ahead. None! Is this why the *Silent Night*?

policy of screening passengers, the non-transparency of the airline staff, and the flagrant discrimination. Most airlines allow pregnant passengers on flights without any medical certificate as long as they are below 36 weeks pregnant. This policy is in place mostly to prevent any medical emergencies that could delay or reroute flights. In the case of Hong Kong Express, their policy on pregnant passengers denies boarding to non-U.S. citizens who are over 20 weeks pregnant. This policy is specifically reserved for flights between Hong Kong and Saipan, which they claim is due to the request of U.S. immigration. Interestingly, the website of the US Homeland Security makes no mention of such a policy to the best of my knowledge. In all my years of flying various airlines to the U.S., I have never heard of such a practice.

I am well aware of Saipan's reputation as a hotspot for birth tourism. There have been a handful of exposés on companies catering to expecting Chinese mothers seeking to give birth in the U.S. Nevertheless, I must raise an eye to the problematic practices of Hong Kong Express that are supposedly enforced to address this controversial issue. Firstly, it is discriminatory in that it targets passengers based on their outward appearance by pinpointing those that "appear" pregnant. Furthermore, the staff of Hong Kong Express displayed a lack of transparency throughout the incident (e.g. saying one thing while the document stated otherwise). There was no way for me to verify that the test was administered by an actual medical practitioner since the staff had no identification nor wore proper uniform. Finally, the effectiveness of this policy is doubtful in that one could easily produce false results since the test was conducted in a public area. Clearly, the practices of Hong Kong Express needs to be reviewed whether it actually solves the issue it intends to address while at the same time ensures that passengers' privacy are respected.






Coming back to Saipan has always been a happy time for me as I look forward to seeing my family and catching up with friends. But after this incident, I can only think of how I will be suspected, investigated, and humiliated before I can return to a place I consider home.

Midori Nishida

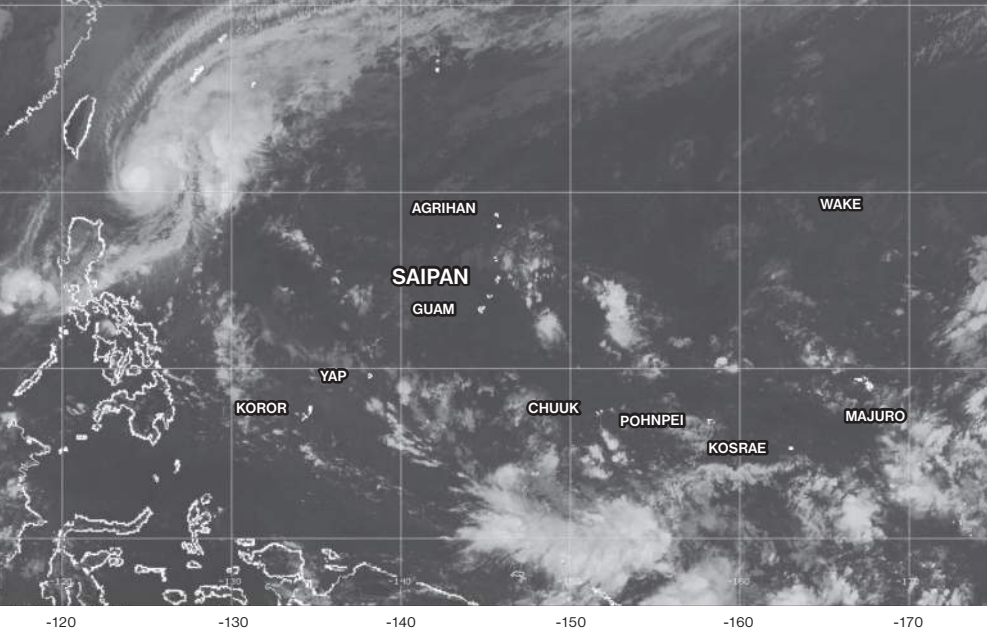
Tokyo, Japan

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
									
Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 20 to 25 mph.		Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 20 to 25 mph.		Breezy. Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy and breezy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	
88°	77°	87°	77°	88°	77°	87°	77°	87°	77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:49 AM, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2019

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam weather radar shows isolated showers moving through the Marianas waters, with a few thunderstorms at the far northeast end of the area of coverage, northeast of Saipan. The VAD wind profile indicates east-northeast winds of 14 to 22 knots through the lowest 8 thousand feet of the air. The buoys reveal combined seas of 5 to 7 feet which are composed of north-northeast swell and northeast wind waves.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	87° / 76°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 76°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	68° / 59°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	55° / 39°	
Hong Kong	Sunny	81° / 70°	
Honolulu	Windy	84° / 75°	
London	Showers	50° / 45°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	68° / 52°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	90° / 79°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	72° / 50°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	78° / 72°	
New York	Cloudy	59° / 36°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	72° / 59°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	52° / 48°	
Busan	Mostly Sunny	66° / 50°	
Rome	Showers	61° / 54°	
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	68° / 59°	
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	60° / 48°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	54° / 36°	
Tokyo	Rain	59° / 55°	
Washington, DC	Showers	60° / 39°	



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
3:03 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.34	
9:34 AM	LOW TIDE	0.17	
4:22 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.88	
10:59 PM	LOW TIDE	0.43	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:21 AM	5:43 PM
Saturday	6:22 AM	5:43 PM
Sunday	6:22 AM	5:43 PM
Monday	6:23 AM	5:43 PM
Tuesday	6:23 AM	5:44 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	1:48 AM	2:26 PM	-
Saturday	2:45 AM	3:10 PM	-
Sunday	3:43 AM	3:55 PM	-
Monday	4:41 AM	4:41 PM	-
Tuesday	5:41 AM	5:30 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 27, 2019

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily	UA174	7:30am	8:10am	Daily
UA105	6:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4	UA104	4:50pm	5:30pm	2, 4
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:20am	6:30am	Daily	7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
				7C3452	10:05pm	2:30am+1	3
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	2:05am	6:05am	Daily	OZ6233	8:00am	1:20pm	2, 4, 6
OZ626	2:10am	6:10am	1	OZ623	8:55am	2:30pm	1, 3, 5, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:25am	3, 7	7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 4, 5, 6	OZ625	7:30pm	1:00am+1	7
7C3403	4:35am	8:35am	Daily	TW307	7:45pm	1:05am+1	Daily
OZ6243	3:20pm	7:10pm	2, 4, 6	OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ624	3:50pm	7:40pm	1, 3, 5, 7	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily				
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)				HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN			
JD396	7:30am	12:05pm	1	JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4	JD395	8:50pm	5:00am+1	7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6	3U8645	8:10pm	3:10am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:50pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:35am	1 via ICN	UA184/174	12:40am	8:07am+1	3, 6 via GUM
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:35am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:05pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	9:50pm	Daily via GUM	OZ702/625	12:05pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR	UA192/174	10:40pm	8:07am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
				UA184/174	10:55pm	8:07am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
				OZ704/6233	11:45pm	1:20pm+1	1, 3, 5 via ICN
				OZ704/623	11:45pm	2:30pm+1	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ746/6233	12:30am	1:20pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ746/623	12:30am	2:30pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ6243/9661	3:20pm	11:15pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN	UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
OZ624/9661	3:50pm	11:15pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN	UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; BC SkyMark ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (*The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.*)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily	1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily	1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily	1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily	1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily	1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily	1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY				
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily				
GUAM TO ROTA							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY				
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily				
SAIPAN TO TINIAN							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY				
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily				
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily				

T.O.A.S.T.: Timeworn Old Age Senior Tales

Stranded on Hippocampus Highway

And there you are stranded on Hippocampus Highway inside your brain casing trying to fix a forgotten flat tire and nobody believes you when you say I'll do it my way inside your neural synapses need an immediate rewire. That common old age sign you saw and knew said NO EXIT you saw it coming as a problem for years but decided to ignore now you have a memory problem and just can't seem to fix it overflowing used memory banks help you continue to explore. There goes your recent memory, for just a second, but fleeting now its lost in your gray matter, a 'grave' gray area for sure even though now to yourself you keep on constantly repeating you just don't know how long a particular memory will endure. Get off hippocampus highway, take a short cut, road less traveled

that is if your memory map fibers are not completely unraveled.

Another Breakdown on Hippocampus Highway

So you forgot how to do that but remember how to do this Only yesterday you did it all without thinking and at ease You can still get dressed for church but forgot how to kiss remembering your best friend's name is giving you a tease.

Alive and well you tell all your friends and well wishers having lots of retirement fun and enjoying my life but deep in those cerebrum and cerebellum fissures you've forgotten the names of your kids and your wife.

Keeping busy, reading about particle theory and black holes just can never remember the number of miles in a light year

LITERARY NOOK

By **JOEY CONNOLLY**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey aka Pepe Batbon is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys stargazing.



whether it was to Newport or Newcastle you carried the coals and how many prongs an antelope has above and behind its ears.

That's OK at least you remember how to brush your teeth you just forgot they are false and hard gums are underneath.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY(CPA)
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 • Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-003-20

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY
OF AUTOMOTIVE DIESEL OIL

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for the supply and delivery of Automotive Diesel Oil for its use at the Saipan International Airport and Port of Saipan.

The RFP package is available beginning November 01, 2019 from 0800 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.

Interest proposers must submit one original and two copies of the sealed proposal. The sealed proposals must be submitted before 4:30 p.m., November 22, 2019, to the Office of the Executive Director at the aforementioned location.

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if in its opinion to do so is in CPA's best interest.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

REGULAR BOARD MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority hereby gives notice that a **Regular Board of Directors Meeting** will be held on **Wednesday, November 27, 2019, at 9:00 a.m.** in the MVA Conference Room, Saipan, MP 96950.

MEETING AGENDA

- 1) **Preliminary Matters**
 1. Call to Order
 2. Roll Call
 3. Adoption of Agenda
 4. Adoption of Minutes
 - a. Regular Board Meeting – October 15, 2019
- 2) **Public Comments**
- 3) **Committee Reports**
 1. Finance Committee —
 - a. Fund Status Report – October 2019
- 4) **New Business**
 1. Skymark Airlines Inaugural Flight
 2. Tinian Mayor's Office Holiday Festivities
 3. Christmas Lights Sole Source Contract – MVA-SOLE-20-2018
- 5) **Old Business**
 1. Austerity Measures
 2. Invitation to Bid (ITB) for Banzai Cliff Peace Memorial Improvements – MVA-ITB-20-2017
 3. 1st Quarter FY2020 Korea Marketing Plans
- 6) **Executive Session**
- 7) **Miscellaneous/Announcements**
- 8) **Adjournment**

/s/ Marian Aldan-Pierce
Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with the "Open Government Act", the Public School System State Board of Education, through their Special Education State Advisory Panel (SESAP), is hereby serving notice to the general public that it will hold its **1st Quarter Meeting on Monday, November 25, 2019 from 9:00am to 12:00pm** at the **Board of Education Conference Room, Capital Hill, Saipan**. This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcome.

AGENDA

- I. Preliminary Matters
 - Roll Call
 - Presence of a Quorum
 - Adoption of Agenda
 - Adoption of Minutes
 - September 27, 2019
- II. SESAP Annual Report
- III. FFY 2018 Annual Performance Report
- IV. Adjournment

In compliance with the American Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting, but require accessibility such as large print or sign language interpreters must call 237-3029/3012. Several days notice is necessary to allow organizers ample time to make necessary arrangements.

/s/ Manuela Mendiola
Chairperson

/s/ Suzanne Lizama
Director, Special Education Program

COMMONWEALTH ZONING BOARD SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, November 26, 2019
10:00 AM, Zoning Board Conference Room
Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • www.zoning.gov.mp

- A. **Preliminary Matters**
 1. Call to Order
 2. Roll Call
 3. Adoption of Agenda
 4. Public Comments
- B. **Old Business**
- C. **New Business**
 1. Board Decision on additional amendments to the Saipan Zoning Law
- D. **Executive Session**
- E. **Miscellaneous**
 - a. Other Matters
 - b. Announcements
 - c. Next Meeting
- F. **Adjourn**

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogumoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Mariano Taitano, Zoning Board Chairman

COMMONWEALTH CASINO COMMISSION
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. Box 500237, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: 1 (670) 233-1857 • Fax: 1 (670) 233-1856
www.cnmicasinocommission.com
Email: info@cnmicasinocommission.com

AGENDA

Pursuant to the Open Government Act, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Commonwealth Casino Commission ("Commission"), hereby give notice that the Commission has scheduled a regular meeting on Tuesday, November 26, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. at the Conference Room located on the 2nd Floor of the Commission's main office at the Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai, Saipan.

The following Agenda will be discussed:

- I. **PRELIMINARIES:**
 - A. Call to Order
 - B. Roll Call
 - C. Adoption of Agenda
 - D. Adoption of Minutes: October 30, 2019
- II. **REPORTS:**
 - A. Report by the Chairman
 - B. Report by the Executive Director
- III. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- IV. **MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS:**
 - A. Casino Licensee – Imperial Pacific International (CNMI), LLC ("IPI") – Updates:
 1. Imperial Pacific Resort & Hotel ("IPR"):
 - Update on IPR's Construction
 - Update on the partial opening of the Villas
 2. IPI Personnel – Resident Employment Objectives & CLA Annual Plan
 3. Responsible Gaming Program
 4. Compliance Committee
 5. IPI Financial Matters
 6. Other IPI Updates
 - B. Other Miscellaneous Matters.
- V. **OLD BUSINESS:**
 - A. Update on House Bill 21-11, HS1
 - B. Other Old Business Matters
- VI. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - A. Rolling Chip Program. Request by IPI, dated November 6, 2019, to renew and extend the current VIP Cash and Complimentary Rebate Program from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2022.
 - B. Renewal of Regular Casino Service Provider Licenses – Gaming Vendors (2-year licenses):
 1. **SG Gaming Asia Limited** (dba: SG Gaming). Electronic Gaming Machines. Macau. Initial 2-year Casino Service Provider License will expire on 11/29/19.
 2. **BMM Australia Pty, Ltd** (dba: Testlabs). Testing of Computer and Gaming Systems, Australia. Initial 2-year Casino Service Provider License will expire on 11/29/19.
 3. **Pockaj D.O.O.** (dba: Alfastreet). Electronic Gaming Machines. Slovenia. Initial 2-year Casino Service Provider License will expire on 11/29/19.
 4. **DC & BNC Technology**. Electronic Gaming Machines. Saipan. Initial 2-year Casino Service Provider License will expire on 11/29/19.
 - C. **Notification of Issuance** of Provisional Casino Vendor License (1-year). **Fritz Pacific**. Suppliers of construction workers and related services. Provisional License will expire on October 27, 2020.
 - D. Other
- VII. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**
 - A. Report by the CCC Audit Division
 - B. Report by CCC Legal Counsel
- VIII. **ADJOURNMENT**

The Commission reserves the right to amend this agenda and take action on the amended agenda pursuant to 1 CMC §9910 (b). Pursuant to 1 CMC §9912 (a)(7) and 1 CMC §9912 (c), the Commission may vote to meet in Executive Session. In addition, the Commission may extend its official meeting for another day or more, if necessary.

/s/ Juan M. Sablan
Chairman

Business

At first glance Rebel-Fi looks like your typical customizing or personalizing store, but owner Nate Roppul envisions something bigger for his newly opened shop in Gualo Rai.

"A customer is not just a customer to me [but] a partner, a fellow entrepreneur, another business owner, a home-based crafter who just loves to make gifts for his/her loved ones, or anyone looking to put their name on a product," said the 30-year-old.

To Rebel-Fi is actually to change the way consumerism works, Roppul said. "We as a consumer should be able to purchase from a place that has loyalty programs, affiliate marketing programs, and educational programs. These programs are exactly what's on my mind when selling to a customer."

Rebel-Fi currently retails customizable items like hats, T-shirts, mugs, plates, wallets, clocks, ornaments, and custom sublimated all-over printed socks.

"All of my items I sell can be customized or personalized for whatever occasion or memorial. My product line is always expanding so this isn't all that I sell."

Aside from blanks, a term the industry calls for bare mugs, shirts, etc., Rebel-Fi also carries Silhouette Cameo 4 machines and accessories, vinyl, and heat transfers for would-be entrepreneurs like himself.

Silhouette Cameo is the ultimate do-it-yourself machine and uses a small blade to cut over 100 materials, including paper, cardstock, vinyl, and fabric up to 12 inches wide.

"Rebel-Fi isn't actually a brand when you think of it. It's

Rebel-Fi: Redefining the consumerism model

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR



Rebel-Fi owner Nate Roppul poses in front of his customizable hat display stand.

MARK RABAGO

a lifestyle. We need to build our own empire by helping each other grow and not look at other businesses as a competitor," he said.

Roppul chose to open up shop at the first floor EZ Outlet in Gualo Rai because there's a clothing store upstairs. "I wanted our stores to complement each other. It's a win-win situation for the both of us. Great quality, good prices, and awesome customer service both upstairs and downstairs."

It also helps that he lives in Gualo Rai. "...it keeps me closer to my family in case of emergency. Having a child

keeps my decision-making in check. I always [have] to think of what's best for us."

That is why he named his company after his son, Rebel, plus he needed a name for his Wi-Fi.

"I also researched the meaning of 'fi' in 'Semper Fi' which is short for fidelity and means faithful or the exactness of something which is copied or reproduced. Also 'fi' as it is pronounced also means rock in Carolinian so Rebel-Fi is also rebel rock, said Roppul.

The genesis of Rebel-Fi actually came from Roppul watching and following his fa-

vorite Youtubers sometime in 2018. "They were all inspiring and I figured if they could do what they do and make a living out of it, I could. I ordered a hat press and a Silhouette Cameo 3."

Just when he was about to launch his business, Super Typhoon Yutu hit Saipan.

"It was devastating. Our son was 1 year old at the time and it was hard for us. We went with no power or water for more than a month. Shortly after the typhoon hit, my Silhouette Cameo 3 came in the mail and I was so eager to use it," he said.



MARK RABAGO

Rebel-Fi owner Nate Roppul shows off some of the customizable shirts he makes and sells.

Roppul and his family rented a hotel room and started their new venture from there. "We were short on rent, gas, food, etc. I came up with the idea of selling cheap Christmas gifts (customized ornaments) using the decal vinyl we ordered with our cutter, and we sold each for about \$3 each."

The customized ornaments were so popular with customers that their small hotel room looked like those ball pits children jump into.

"After that, my hat press came in and I started heat pressing hats. My hats sold like hotcakes [because all

the other shops were selling theirs for...double my price. Since then, I've learned to do sublimation printing and other crafts. I have a customer base that is growing rapidly and I'm doing all the work alone, so it's overwhelming but, at the same time, very rewarding," he said.

Rebel-Fi is currently selling its custom photo ornaments at 50% off (\$10) throughout November.

The store is located next to LC Market across Kylie's Bakery. For more information on Rebel-Fi, call Roppul at 783-8094.



MARK RABAGO

Rebel-Fi owner Nate Roppul is selling this Silhouette Cameo 4 for any would-be entrepreneur or customizing junkie like him.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Lights out in California again with high wildfire danger

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Pacific Gas & Electric Co. turned off electricity Wednesday for about 120,000 people in Northern California to prevent power lines from sparking wildfires as the region faced a new bout of windy and warm weather. The utility originally said that about 150,000 customers, or about 375,000 people, would be affected by the outages but significantly lowered that number after some areas got rain or increased humidity that lowered the fire threat. PG&E spokeswoman Ari Vanrenen said about 35,000 more people were told they could lose power later Wednesday if weather

conditions do not improve in their communities. People who lost power were expected to get it back Thursday. A virtually rainless fall has left brush bone-dry and forecasts called for low humidity and winds gusting at times to 55 mph (89 kph), which could fling tree branches or other debris into power lines, causing sparks that could set catastrophic fires in the region, PG&E officials said.

Amnesty International calls Facebook, Google rights abusers

Amnesty International issued a scathing indictment of the world's dominant internet corporations, arguing in a new report that Google and Facebook should be forced to abandon

what it calls their surveillance-based business model because it is "predicated on human rights abuse." The London-based global rights group said in the 60-page report published Thursday that the business model of what it calls the "Surveillance Giants" is "inherently incompatible with the right to privacy." Google and Facebook likewise threaten a range of other rights, including freedom expression and the right to equality and non-discrimination, the group said. The report said the company's practice of vacuuming up personal data in order to feed voracious advertising businesses represents an unprecedented assault on privacy rights. It says the companies force people to make a "Faustian

bargain" to share their data in order to access Google and Facebook services that have grown to dominate the global public square. (AP)

UAW president steps down as GM sues rival over union bribery

DETROIT (AP)—United Auto Workers President Gary Jones abruptly resigned Wednesday, capping a tumultuous day that saw union leaders move to oust him and General Motors accusing rival Fiat Chrysler in a lawsuit of bribing union officials to get more favorable contract terms from the UAW. Jones has notified the union that he would retire, his attorney, Bruce Maffeo of New York, said in an email. The news of

Jones came shortly after the UAW's International Executive Board filed paperwork to expel him and Regional Director Vance Pearson from the union over allegations raised by a federal investigation into union corruption that has resulted in multiple arrests starting in 2017. The move to oust the two leaders would have brought union trials for both. Pearson is facing criminal charges while Jones has not been charged but federal agents raided his suburban Detroit home in August.

Road-safety regulator rapped over regulating autonomous cars

WASHINGTON (AP)—The nation's road-safety regulator is under fire again for

what critics call lax oversight of tests involving autonomous vehicles. The nation's top transportation safety investigator said Wednesday that the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration doesn't give enough direction to companies developing more automated cars. And a member of the Senate Commerce Committee quizzed NHTSA's acting administrator on why the agency hasn't confronted Tesla about widely shared hacks that let drivers take their hands off the wheel. NHTSA's acting administrator, James Owens, says the agency is assessing autonomous vehicle technology and researching how people interact with it.

Nation

Democrats spar over health care, how to beat Trump

ATLANTA (AP)—Democratic presidential candidates clashed Wednesday in a debate over the future of health care in America, racial inequality and their ability to build a winning coalition to take on President Donald Trump next year.

The faceoff came after hours of testimony in the impeachment inquiry of Trump and at a critical juncture in the Democratic race to run against him in 2020. With less than three months before the first voting contests, big questions hang over the front-runners, time is running out for lower tier candidates to make their move and new Democrats are launching improbable last-minute bids for the nomination.

But amid the turbulence, the White House hopefuls often found themselves fighting on well-trodden terrain, particularly over whether the party should embrace a sweeping

“Medicare for All” program or make more modest changes to the current health care system.

Sens. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and Bernie Sanders of Vermont, the field’s most progressive voices, staunchly defended Medicare for All, which would eliminate private insurance coverage in favor of a government-run system.

“The American people understand that the current health care system is not only cruel—it is dysfunctional,” Sanders said.

Former Vice President Joe Biden countered that many people are happy with private insurance through their jobs, while Mayor Pete Buttigieg of South Bend, Indiana, complained about other candidates seeking to take “the divisive step” of ordering people onto universal health care, “whether they like it or not.”

Democrats successfully

campaigned on health care last year, winning control of the House on a message that Republicans were slashing existing benefits. But moderates worry that Medicare for All is more complicated and may not pay the same political dividend. That’s especially true after Democrats won elections earlier this month in Kentucky and Virginia without embracing the program.

“We must get our fired-up Democratic base with us,” said Sen. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota. “But let’s also get those independents and moderate Republicans who cannot

stomach (Trump) anymore.”

The fifth Democratic debate unfolded in Atlanta, a city that played a central role in the civil rights movement, and the party’s diversity, including two African American candidates, was on display. But there was disagreement on how best to appeal to minority voters, who are vital to winning the Democratic nomination and will be crucial in the general election.

Sens. Kamala Harris of California and Cory Booker of New Jersey said the party has sometimes come up short in its outreach to black Americans.

“For too long, I think, candidates have taken for granted constituencies that have been a backbone of the Democratic Party,” Harris said. “You show up in a black church and want to get the vote but just haven’t been there before.”

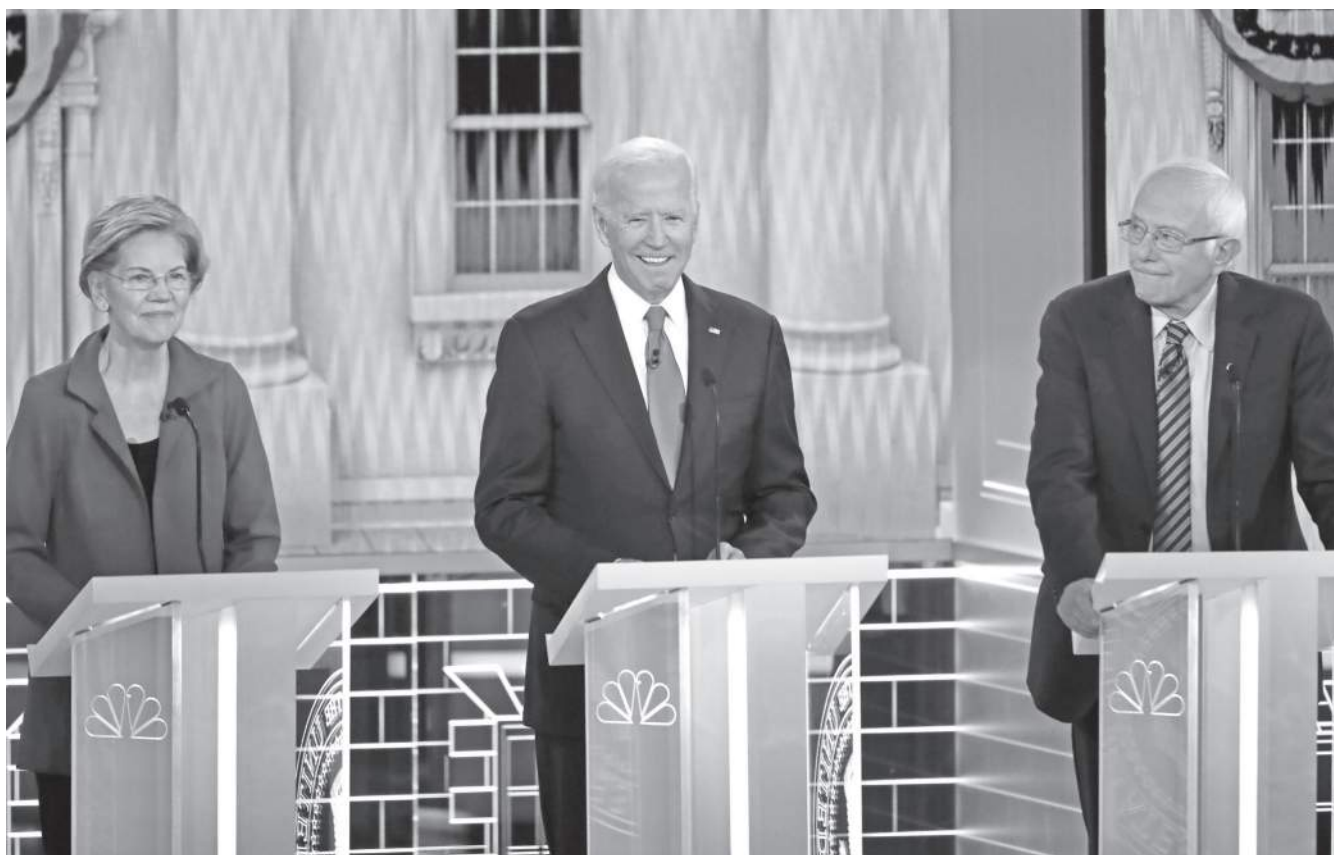
Booker declared, “Black voters are pissed off, and they’re worried.”

In the moderators’ chairs were four women, including Rachel Maddow, MSNBC’s liberal darling, and Ashley Parker, a White House reporter for The Washington Post. It was only the third time a pri-

mary debate has been hosted by an all-female panel.

Buttigieg — who was a natural target given his recent rise in the polls to join Biden, Warren and Sanders among the crowded field’s front-runners — was asked early about how being mayor of a city of 100,000 residents qualified him for the White House.

“I know that from the perspective of Washington, what goes on in my city might look small,” Buttigieg said. “But frankly, where we live, the infighting on Capitol Hill is what looks small.”



From left, Democratic presidential candidates Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., former Vice President Joe Biden and Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., participate in a Democratic presidential primary debate, Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2019, in Atlanta.

ACROSS THE NATION

Sheriff: School-based deputy had sex with student, arrested

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)—A former deputy working at a South Carolina high school had sex with a 17-year-old student in his patrol car while in uniform, Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott said Wednesday. Lott said 40-year-old Jamel Bradley is charged with third-degree criminal sexual conduct and the investigation into his conduct with other students at Spring Valley High School in Columbia continues. Bradley, a star basketball player at the University of South Carolina at the turn of the century, had been assigned to the school since 2009 but was removed in 2018 when he was sued in federal court over a relationship with a different student. The sex act with the 17-year-old that led to Bradley’s arrest Wednesday took place last year, Lott said. It did not happen at Spring Valley High School, where Bradley worked and the victim was a student, the sheriff said. “I’d like to kill you, but I can’t do that. I really would. It just disgusts me,” Lott said of his former deputy. Bradley has a bond hearing scheduled for Thursday. Court records indicate his lawyer in the civil suit no longer wants to represent him and there was no attorney listed for the criminal charge.

Police: Mother took daughter from care facility, killed her

ST. LOUIS (AP)—An elderly woman who feared she was developing dementia removed her mentally disabled adult daughter from a care facility, then fatally stabbed her in a suburban St. Louis hotel before attempting to kill herself, police and relatives say. Marjorie Theleman, 78, was charged Tuesday with first-degree murder and armed criminal action in the death of her 51-year-old daughter, Sharon Theleman, after police were summoned to a hotel in Fenton, Missouri, because the pair had not checked out. Sharon Theleman was pronounced dead at the scene. Her mother, who attempted to suffocate herself with a plastic bag, remained hospitalized Wednesday, according to a police news release. She left a typed note explaining her actions and a handwritten note telling housekeeping to call police, a police detective wrote in the probable cause statement. Police said she was expected to survive. But one of her two sons, Scott Theleman, who lives in the Dallas area, said he has been told his mother is in a coma and has a “50-50 chance of surviving.” He said his mother lived in a retirement community and wanted to have his sister moved there from a group home because his sister’s mobility was declining. “She was concerned about Alzheimer’s,” he said of his mother. “Her mother had it. She had spent many years trying to avoid it but felt she was heading that way.”

Key witnesses will cap intense week in impeachment inquiry

WASHINGTON (AP)—House impeachment investigators will hear from two key witnesses Thursday who grew alarmed by how President Donald Trump and others in his orbit were conducting foreign policy in Ukraine, capping an intense week in the historic inquiry.

David Holmes, a political counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv, says he was having lunch with Ambassador Gordon Sondland this summer when he heard Trump on the phone asking the envoy about the investigations he wanted from the Ukraine president. The colorful exchange was like nothing he had ever seen, Holmes said in an earlier closed-door deposition.

Fiona Hill said her National Security Council boss, John Bolton, cut short a meeting with visiting Ukrainians at the White House when Sondland

started asking them about “investigations.”

The two witnesses set to appear Thursday are the last scheduled for public hearings in an inquiry that brought hours of testimony from a roster of current and former U.S. government officials defying Trump’s orders not to appear.

The impeachment inquiry focuses on allegations that Trump sought investigations of former Vice President Joe Biden and his son — and the discredited idea that Ukraine rather than Russia interfered in the 2016 U.S. election — in return for the badly needed military aid and a White House visit the new Ukrainian president wanted to show his backing from the West.

Those testifying publicly this week previously appeared for private depositions, most having received subpoenas

compelling their testimony.

Holmes has told investigators the call he overheard “was so remarkable that I remember it vividly.”

He said he heard Trump ask, “So he’s going to do the investigation?” According to Holmes, Sondland replied that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy “will, quote, ‘do anything you ask him to.’”

Hill said Bolton told her he didn’t want to be involved in any “drug deal” Sondland and Trump’s acting White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney were cooking up over the Ukrainian investigations Trump wanted.

Sondland, a wealthy hotelier and donor to Trump’s inauguration, appeared before lawmakers Wednesday in a marathon session.

He declared that Trump and his lawyer Rudy Giuliani explicitly sought a “quid pro

quo” with Ukraine, leveraging an Oval Office visit for political investigations of Democrats. But he also came to believe the trade involved much more.

Sondland testified it was his understanding the president was holding up nearly \$400 million in military aid, which Ukraine badly needs with an aggressive Russia on its border, in exchange for the country’s announcement of the investigations.

Sondland conceded that Trump never told him directly the security assistance was blocked for the probes, a gap in his account that Republicans and the White House seized on as evidence the president did nothing wrong. But the ambassador said his dealings with Giuliani, as well as administration officials, left him with the clear understanding of what was at stake.

Asia

Esper doesn't regret delaying drills, despite N. Korea snub

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—U.S. Defense Secretary Mark Esper said Thursday he does not regret postponing a U.S.-South Korean military exercise, even though the gesture was rejected by North Korea as not enough to restart nuclear diplomacy.

The prospects for a resumption of the nuclear diplomacy are unclear, with Pyongyang stepping up its pressures on Washington to make bigger concessions. On Wednesday, the North's 1st vice foreign minister, Choe Son Hui, repeated it won't return to a negotiating table unless the United States drops its hostile policy against the North.

"We can discuss the nuclear issue with the U.S. only when it withdraws all its hostile policies against (North Korea)," Choe told reporters during a visit to Moscow, according to South Korean media footage. "In that sense, I think a summit or leaders' talks (between North Korea and the U.S.) isn't an interesting issue for us."

The U.S. and South Korea announced Sunday they indefinitely postponed the annual Vigilant Ace aerial training as part of efforts to revive the nuclear talks, as North Korea has called the training an invasion rehearsal. In response,



AP
U.S. Defense Secretary Mark Esper, right, and Vietnamese Defense Minister Ngo Xuan Lich review an honor guard in Hanoi, Vietnam on Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2019.

senior North Korean official Kim Yong Chol said Tuesday the U.S. must scrap that military drill completely and abandon its hostility against his country if it wants to see the resumption of the nuclear negotiations.

North Korea wants the U.S. to lift major international

sanctions on it and provide security assurances before it fully abandons its nuclear arsenal. But the U.S. has maintained sanctions would stay in place until North Korea takes serious steps toward denuclearization.

Before boarding his plane in Hanoi, Vietnam, for a flight

to Washington, Esper described North Korea's response to the drill's postponement as being "not as positive as we would have liked." In Esper's words: "I don't regret taking the high road."

Esper also said he does not believe there is a rift in the U.S.-South Korean alliance,

despite a breakdown this week in negotiations over a U.S. demand for a five-fold increase in what Seoul pays to keep 28,500 American troops on its soil.

He said he was not aware of a plan, reported in South Korean media, that the U.S. is considering withdrawing

some of its troops from South Korea if Seoul doesn't agree to that increase. Esper said Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has not mentioned any such plan in their recent talks.

"We're not threatening allies over this," Esper said.

On Thursday, South Korea's biggest newspaper, Chosun Ilbo, cited an unidentified diplomatic source in Washington as saying the U.S. is mulling pulling out a brigade from South Korea if the cost-sharing negotiations faltered. It said an American brigade usually has 3,000-4,000 troops.

A U.S.-led diplomacy aimed at ridding North Korea of its nuclear weapons has largely been deadlocked since the February collapse of a summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. Kim Jong Un has demanded the U.S. come up with new, acceptable measures to salvage the nuclear talks by year's end.

Last campus protesters hold out as Hong Kong schools reopen

HONG KONG (AP)—Hong Kong schools reopened Wednesday after a six-day shutdown, but students and commuters faced transit disruptions as the last anti-government protesters remained holed up on a university campus, surrounded by police.

City officials tried to restore a sense of normalcy as primary and secondary classes resumed. Workers began cleaning up debris blocking a major road tunnel, but it was unclear when it would reopen. Officials warned protesters not to disrupt elections scheduled for the weekend.

A small group of protesters refused to leave Hong Kong Polytechnic University, the remnants of hundreds who took over the campus for several days. They won't leave because they would face arrest, and police have set up a cordon around the area to prevent anyone from escaping.

The occupation of Polytechnic capped more than a week of intense protests, the latest flareup in the often-violent unrest that has gripped the semi-autonomous Chinese city for more than five months.

Also Wednesday, a former British Consulate employee said

he was detained in mainland China and tortured by secret police trying to extract information about activists involved in the movement—revelations sure to add to protesters' fears about Beijing's tightening grip.

Since a police siege of the campus began Sunday, police have arrested 700 people who left campus to surrender, while another 300 minors were allowed to go home but may still face prosecution, Chief Superintendent Ricky Ho told reporters.

Among those arrested were people involved in an apparent escape attempt through a sewer. Ho said officers saw four people remove a manhole cover and lower a rope into the drain to help two others climb out. Ho said all were arrested but did not give further details.

It was unclear how many protesters remained on campus, but they appeared to number fewer than 100. About two dozen scrounged through supplies in the cafeteria looking for food in the morning. Trash littered public areas, and a stench permeated the campus.

One protester, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he fears arrest, remained

adamant.

"I think if you go out and surrender, it just shows you agree with what the police and that government are doing or have given up the fight," he said.

There were scattered incidents of protesters stopping trains by opening emergency doors and blocking traffic, but on a much smaller scale than last week.

Television footage showed long lines at some stations because of train delays. A few stations remained shut by damage from earlier protests.

A group of protesters, joined by students in uniform, blocked traffic at one intersection. Others in the area argued with them, removing some of the metal barriers that protesters carried into the street.

Even as the latest violence wound down, a fundamental divide suggested the protests in the former British colony are far from over.

Office workers joined protesters at lunch time in the central business district to show support for the movement, as they have every day since last week. Police kept the crowds on the sidewalks, so they wouldn't block traffic.

Abe becomes Japan's longest-serving prime minister

TOKYO (AP)—Prime Minister Shinzo Abe made history Wednesday by becoming Japan's longest-serving political leader, though he hasn't achieved his biggest goal of revising the nation's pacifist constitution.

Abe marked his 2,887th day in office, surpassing Taro Katsura from the early 20th century.

"Day by day, I have made efforts to achieve the policies that I have promised, and because of these daily efforts I'm here to mark this day," Abe told reporters.

Following his disappointing 2006-2007 term, Abe returned to office in 2012 and has since bolstered Japan's defense role but hasn't yet been able to change the constitution and to allow a full-fledged military.

Abe and his right-wing supporters have long seen the U.S.-drafted war-renouncing constitution as a legacy of Japan's World War II defeat and humiliation during U.S. occupation.

Abe has been stepping up his effort to push through a constitutional change before his party leadership, his third term, ends in September 2021.

Abe has denied rumors that he will seek a fourth term in the absence of a strong successor.

The charter campaign has struggled due to a lack of support among a public more concerned with the economy and social security. Abe must obtain approval by two-thirds of both houses of parliament plus a majority in a national referendum to make any revision to the constitution.

Abe on Wednesday renewed his pledge to beat deflation, tackle Japan's aging and declining population and achieve the constitutional revision.

Abe's resignation after his scandal-laden first time was the beginning of six years of annual leadership change, remembered as the era of "revolving door" politics that lacked stability and long-term policies.

When he returned to office in 2012, he vowed to revitalize the nation and get its economy out of the deflationary doldrums that had weighed on growth for years, after the implosion of the country's financial bubble in the early 1990s.

His "Abenomics" formula of stimulating consumer de-

mand through government spending, massive injections of cash into the economy via central bank purchases of government bonds and other assets and sweeping structural reforms has kept the economy growing, but at a much slower rate than promised. Boosting growth remains a challenge given the fast aging of Japan's workforce and its shrinking population.

Abe has made only halting progress with reforms intended to improve productivity and open up the labor market.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga cited Abe's strong leadership and economy-first policies as the main reasons for his long tenure in office.

Opponents, however, said Abe's time in office has led to cronyism, autocracy and caused more damage than benefit to democracy.

"The administration is without legacy or achievement," said Tetsuro Fukuyama, a senior lawmaker in the main opposition Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan. "It's not helping the people's lives, and the disparity between the rich and the poor is widening."

World

VOSBURG, South Africa (AP)—Residents call this drought-stricken community a “forgotten town.”

The flat, dusty roads to Vosburg are surrounded by withered fields. The streams feeding the community of a few thousand people have gone dry. Signs warn drivers of wandering cattle and sheep but there are none in sight.

The months-long drought is affecting most of southern Africa. The United Nations estimates that more than 11 million people now face crisis levels of food insecurity in places like Zimbabwe and Mozambique, where two cyclones wiped out crops earlier this year.

Among the hardest hit areas is South Africa’s Northern Cape province, where many farmers are struggling to keep their families and animals alive while revenue falls and debt piles up.

Commercial sheep farmer Louis van der Merwe, 64, broke down as he described losing more than 400 sheep and 450 springboks in the past two years because of the worst drought he has seen in 45 years of farming.

Some animals died of hunger. Others were sent prematurely to the slaughterhouse to reduce the number to feed. With tears running down his face, Van der Merwe said he now relies on donations of animal feed so the rest can survive.

“If we didn’t have hope, we would not be here anymore,” he said. “We have to have



AP
In this photo taken on Thursday, Nov. 14, 2019, Paul van Wyk, a small scale farmer, kneels down in a cracked bed of a water pan in Vosburg, South Africa.

hope and faith. There are a couple of times when we have felt it is not worth it.”

Two of his fellow farmers have killed themselves due to the stress, Van der Merwe said.

Northern Cape province will need over \$28 million in drought relief over the next three months to assist 15,500 affected farms, according to farmers’ organization Agri-SA.

So far, South Africa’s government has pledged \$2 million.

The World Food Program says southern Africa has received normal rainfall in just one of the past five growing seasons, with small-scale farmers feeling it most.

Some like 55-year-old Gertruida Buffel, have resorted to sharing their own food with their animals.

For two weeks she had fed two tiny lambs a mixture of maize meal and water after their mother starved to death. When The Associated Press arrived at her home, she had just learned that one had died.

“It must have died because it has only been eating the maize meal mixture. It is not their natural diet,” Buffel said.

Small children are hungry, too.

At Vosburg’s only school, Delta Primary School, scores of

children line up every morning for what becomes both breakfast and lunch: usually corn meal, vegetables and soup.

While the school food program began before the drought, teachers say it has become increasingly vital for the town’s struggling families.

“It’s very hard for the parents to actually feed their children at home,” said one teacher, Xolile Ngxathu.

In the regional center of Kimberley a few hours’ drive away, government officials

spend their days trying to allocate money from the \$2 million provincial disaster relief fund. It is a daunting task as some farmers in far-flung areas cannot be reached easily.

Farmers Jan Louw, 65, and Martiens Tieties, 67, are among those relying on government-sponsored animal feed but are not expecting their next rations until January.

Until then, they rely on commercial farmers sharing feed to keep their few livestock alive.

WORLD BRIEFS

Activists: Iran conservationists get prison time amid unrest

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Activists say Iran has sentenced six conservationists to prison in an internationally criticized trial as unrest continues in parts of the country. The New York-based Center for Human Rights in Iran said Thursday that those convicted face six to 10 years in prison. It says two others have yet to hear verdicts from Iran’s Revolutionary Court. One of the conservationists, Iranian-Canadian citizen Kavous Seyed Emami, died in disputed circumstances in prison in February 2018 awaiting trial. His widow then was blocked from flying out of Iran, but later made it out. News of the cases comes after demonstrations against government-set gasoline prices turned violent in Iran, killing at least a reported 106 people. Iran disputes that figure without offering its own and has turned off the internet across the country.

Greece announces major overhaul of migrant camp system

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Greece announced plans Wednesday to overhaul its migration management system, replacing overcrowded refugee camps on the islands with smaller detention facilities and moving some 20,000 asylum seekers to the mainland over the next few weeks. Deputy Defense Minister Alkiviadis Stefanis announced the changes following a surge in the number of arrivals from nearby

Turkey —with the number of migrants and refugees now exceeding the islands’ populations in some cases. Camps on Lesbos and four other islands in the eastern Aegean Sea are suffering dramatic overcrowding ahead of the winter, with hundreds of families sleeping in tents and often in poor sanitary conditions outside the official facilities. “In the short term, we will return security and control to the areas affected by the crisis,” Stefanis, the Greek minister, said. “Normal life will return to these areas and measures will be taken to safeguard them from future threats, with an emphasis placed on deterrence.”

Mexican El Paso mass shooting victims, families sue Walmart

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Representatives of families and victims of the Aug. 3 mass shooting at a Walmart in El Paso, Texas, have filed a lawsuit against the store chain. Mexico’s Foreign Relations Department said Wednesday it is assisting the 10 Mexican plaintiffs in the suit, filed in El Paso. The lawsuit claims Walmart “did not take reasonable and necessary measures to protect its customers.” The department did not say what damages the lawsuit seeks. It said plaintiffs include relatives of those killed, wounded victims and relatives of the wounded. Eight Mexicans were among the 22 people killed in the shooting, while eight other Mexicans were wounded. Police have said that Patrick Crusius of Dallas confessed to the shooting and that he targeted Mexicans.

Colombia protesters hope to channel wave of discontent

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)—Colombians angry with conservative President Iván Duque are hoping to channel Latin America’s wave of discontent as they take to the streets Thursday with a long list of grievances, from persistent economic inequality to violence against social activists.

Labor unions, student groups and ordinary citizens are expected to join in what could be one of the nation’s biggest demonstrations in recent years, testing an unpopular government as unrest grips the region.

Analysts are skeptical, however, that the event will generate any prolonged unrest like that seen recently in Bolivia, Chile and Ecuador, noting a lack of unifying factors in a divided country that is one of the region’s stronger economic performers.

“We’re not in a pre-insurrectional climate,” said Yann

Basset, a professor at Bogota’s Rosario University. “I’m not sure there’s a general rejection of the political system.”

The Duque government is nevertheless on edge, deploying 170,000 officers to enforce security while closing border crossings and deporting 24 Venezuelans accused of entering the country to instigate unrest.

“They are preparing as if for a war,” said Ariel Ávila, deputy director of the Peace and Reconciliation Foundation. “But it’s very vague what they’ve shared about any potential disturbances.”

Duque, who has a lackluster 26% percent approval rating, has gone on a charm offensive seeking to connect with citizens and counter erroneous claims on social media that he has proposed to raise the retirement age and reduce wages for young workers.

“I’m not here to talk about a garden of roses,” he said

in a radio interview. “I’m talking about a country that is recovering, an economy that is improving and is today one of the best in Latin America.”

Still, many Colombians say they have plenty of reasons to be angry.

Despite the previous administration’s 2016 peace accord with leftist rebels, much of Colombia is still engulfed in violence as illegal armed groups compete for territory where the state has yet to establish a presence. Dozens of indigenous and social leaders have been killed in crimes that remain largely unsolved. The Duque administration has made a small dent in reducing coca crops, but fields of the plant used to make cocaine still cover wide swaths of the country.

Meanwhile, Duque’s government has faced a series of embarrassing setbacks.

Science & Technology

Motorola flips for its futuristic foldable phone

NEW YORK (AP)—Motorola is bracing for the future by returning to the past. The company is adapting its historical flip-phone design for a smartphone with a foldable screen.

Samsung, Huawei and others have phones that fold like a book and offer a double-sized

display when unfolded.

Motorola's new Razr phone, on the other hand, will be smaller than a regular smartphone until unfolded to its full 6.2 inch size. The idea is to make the phone more compact for carrying and storing when folded and not in use.

People have been upgrading smartphones less often as innovation slows down. The phone industry has been looking to foldable screens as a way to revive sales, though they are still niche products.

The phone will launch in the U.S. in January starting at \$1,500.



AP
This undated product image provided by Motorola by Motorola's new Razr phone. Motorola is bracing for the future by returning to the past as it adopts an historical flip-phone design in a smartphone with a foldable screen.

PayPal buying shopping and rewards company Honey for \$4B

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP)—Payments platform PayPal says it is buying shopping and rewards company Honey Science Corp. for \$4 billion.

Founded in 2012, Honey

helps people find online coupons and discounts while they shop online. It has about 17 million monthly users.

PayPal Inc. said Wednesday the acquisition will help its merchants attract

new customers by offering personalized deals and offers. It says it also hopes to reach shoppers earlier, not just when they are paying at checkout.

PayPal says Honey will

keep its headquarters in Los Angeles and its co-founders will join PayPal, which is based in San Jose.

The acquisition comes amid growing competition in the online payments market.

Muted launch for Google's game-streaming service Stadia

NEW YORK (AP)—Google's new game-streaming service Stadia demonstrates the possibilities of gaming from the cloud, but experts say it's hindered by a lack of compelling video games and a convoluted pricing scheme.

Piers Harding-Rolls, head of games research at IHS Markit, called Tuesday's launch more of a public beta test than an actual debut. He said the real test will come next year, when Stadia begins to compete with new video game consoles due out from Sony and Microsoft.

"It is not at the moment a challenger to console companies or PC gaming," he said. "At this stage it is really about getting the product into market

and into hands of consumers."

Google can learn from that and fine-tune the service as it grows and competition intensifies, he said.

Much like movies and music, the traditional video-game industry has been shifting from physical hardware and games to digital downloads and streaming. Such an approach lets gamers play from a variety of devices, picking up where they left off as they switch, without having to buy expensive equipment.

Tech companies such as Google are trying to establish a foothold early—even with some kinks—before streaming becomes as established in gaming as Netflix is in video and Spotify in music.

UPS makes first drone deliveries of prescriptions to consumers' homes

By **KELLY YAMANOUCI**
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution



ATLANTA—UPS has completed its first commercial drone deliveries of CVS prescriptions to consumers' homes, as part of a partnership between the shipping giant and the drugstore chain to develop plans for drone delivery service.

UPS said the two flights by its drone subsidiary UPS Flight Forward were the first commercial drone deliveries of a medical prescription in the United States under a program approved by the Federal Aviation Administration.

The deliveries last Friday from a CVS store in Cary, N.C. went to a home and to a customer in a retirement community, via autonomous flights on a Matternet M2 drone system. The drone hovered about 20 feet over properties and "slowly lowered the packages by a cable and winch to the ground," according to UPS.

One of the customers has limited mobility that makes it difficult to travel to a store to pick up a prescription, according to the companies.

UPS
UPS has made its first commercial drone deliveries, dropping off CVS prescriptions to consumers' homes.

"This drone delivery, the first of its kind in the industry, demonstrates what's possible for our customers who can't easily make it into our stores," said CVS Pharmacy president Kevin Hourican in a written statement. "CVS is exploring many types of delivery options for urban, suburban and rural markets. We see big potential in drone delivery in rural communities where life-saving medications are needed and consumers at times cannot conveniently access one of our stores."

UPS chief strategy and transformation officer Scott Price said in a written statement that the new services "will shatter preconceived notions of how, when and where goods can be delivered."

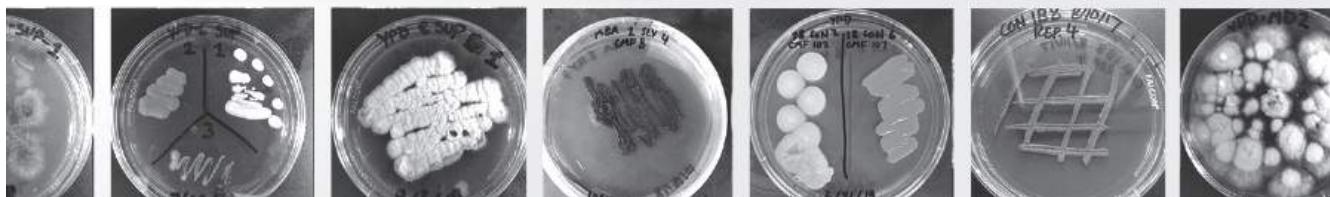
Science Matters

Ocean's fungi: Unexplored world

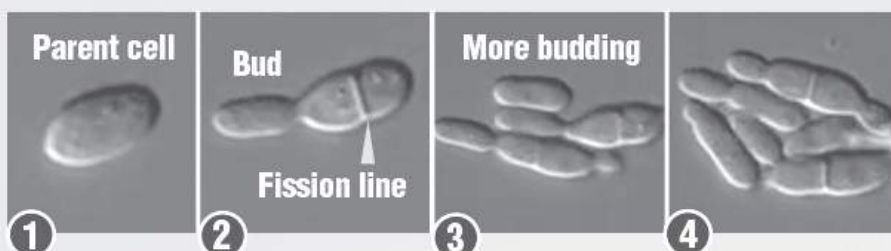
In samples from coastal water and shores, researchers found 35 species of fungi, many never studied before

Among the surprises in this little-understood community, the researchers found fungi with unusual reproductive methods and a black fungus that lives in severe deep-sea conditions

Lab cultures of some of the fungi



This unusual fungus reproduces from a single cell by breaking off buds and can also split in two (fission)



Fungi's life in the sea

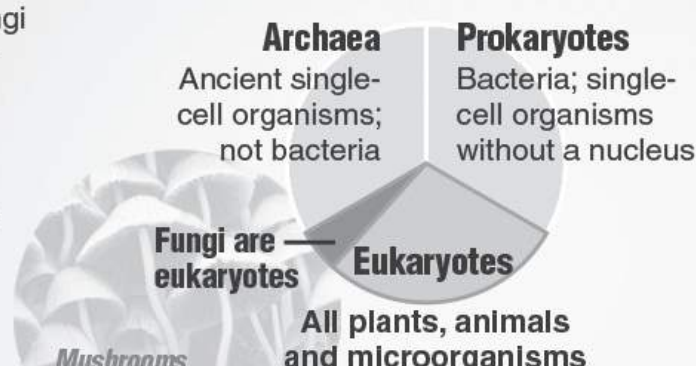
Great diversity was found in the marine fungi — wide variation of form and a variety of species

The next research question: Are the fungi as diverse in the way they live — their place in the ecology of the ocean — a subject still little understood

Do some co-exist with their host the way lichens do with algae on land?
What are the hosts of parasitic fungi?
Do fish have fungal diseases?

Source: Amy Gladfelter of University of North Carolina and Woods Hole Marine Biological Laboratory; TNS Photos
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

Their place in domains of life



Off The Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

In Sweden, wanted man found asleep in store's bed department

STOCKHOLM (AP)—Police in Sweden say a wanted man was found asleep in a bed in a furniture store north of Stockholm. Police spokesman Tobias Ahlen says the staff at the Ikea store in Uppsala on Monday contacted the police after they found the 25-year-old sleeping in the bed department. They were not aware that he was wanted. Ahlen said Wednesday the officers found out that the man had stayed in the warehouse after closing. He was arrested for trespassing, and police then discovered that he was being sought for another, unspecified crime.

Pet shop owner says suspects threw stolen guinea pig at him

DANVILLE, Ky. (AP)—A Kentucky pet store owner says two women stole a pair of guinea pigs, lobbing one of the animals at him during their escape. News outlets report 21-year-old Isabelle Mason and 19-year-old and Jaimee Pack on Saturday tried to smuggle out the animals from Pet Paradise without paying. Owner Scott Gonyaw told

WKYT-TV he confronted the suspects, screaming “Give me the guinea pigs!” as they got into a car. One suspect rolled down a window and tossed a four-month-old guinea pig named Lucky onto the concrete. The other ran over Gonyaw’s foot with the car. He says he suffered bruising. Lucky wasn’t injured. The other guinea pig remains missing. Jail records show Danville police charged the women with shoplifting, robbery and animal cruelty. It’s unclear whether they have lawyers.

Group hopes to prevent “opossum dropping” on New Year’s Eve

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—A movement is growing in North Carolina to prevent the act of so-called “opossum dropping.” The practice involves suspending an opossum in a transparent box on New Year’s Eve and slowly lowering it the ground as people count down to midnight. The Raleigh News & Observer reported Monday that a western North Carolina town had conducted opossum drops for 24 years. Brasstown in Clay

County dropped its last opossum in 2018. But the organization Animal Help Now wants to prevent anyone from doing it elsewhere. That will require a change to state law that allows people to do anything they want to opossums for five days each year. The group started a petition and gathered almost 160,000 signatures before the petition closed. The group says it’s continuing its legislative efforts.

Oakland Zoo: Child, not grizzly bears, cracked glass window

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—A child, not the grizzly bears, cracked a glass viewing window at the Oakland Zoo’s bear exhibit, and officials say there’s no need to fear the bears will get out. Oakland Zoo spokeswoman Erin Harrison said in a statement Tuesday that a child hit a rock against the glass several times, “shattering the laminate layer.” She says the bulletproof-strength glass at the enclosure where four grizzly bears live is made of six separate panes, each an inch (2.5 centimeters) thick. She says another zoo visitor reported the child to staff, but they couldn’t find the family.

Harrison says a replacement glass pane will cost \$67,000 and require specialty equipment to install next month.

9 great white sharks show up near the Carolinas

OUTER BANKS, N.C. (AP)—It’s not officially Shark Week but for trackers along the East Coast, several great white sharks are putting on a show. The Charlotte Observer reports nine sharks tagged by the ocean data-gathering organization OCEARCH have appeared near the coast in a five-day span, including two that are about 12 feet (3.66 meters) long. Tracking shows two sharks near Charleston, South Carolina. Five more are near the Outer Banks. It’s unclear why so many sharks are swimming near shore in the same region, but OCEARCH’s Chris Fischer told The Outer Banks Voice that the area is a key spot in the shark’s migration.

Always doe prices? Deer wanders into Walmart, slips around

WOOSTER, Ohio (AP)—A whitetail went retail for a bit this week when it entered a Walmart store in Ohio. Pa-

trons in Wooster in northeastern Ohio say the deer was kicking shelves as it walked through the store Wednesday afternoon. Bert and Dawn Moore encountered the deer after stopping in for a few things for dinner. Bert Moore told the Wooster Daily Record he feared the doe was in danger of hurting itself or others. Moore says he grabbed the deer when it grew tired after slipping on the floor and then lay on it to keep it still. He, another shopper and store employees helped the animal get out. It disappeared into a field.

Cat found in New Mexico after going missing in Oregon

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP)—A cat who has been missing for five years in Portland, Oregon, has been found in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The Santa Fe Animal Shelter announced this week that Sasha the black cat was recently found wandering the streets of New Mexico’s capital. Officials said a scan of the cat’s microchip revealed that the kitty had traveled more than 1,200 miles (1,931 kilometers) from Oregon. American Airlines offered to fly the cat to Portland,

along with a member of the Santa Fe Animal Shelter. Officials will present the animal to Viktor Usov, the cat’s original owner. Usov says the family thought they’d never see the cat again.

Boy suspected of using remote control car to smuggle drugs

SAN DIEGO (AP)—California authorities have arrested a 16-year-old boy suspected of using a remote-controlled car to transport \$106,000 worth of methamphetamine across the border. The San Diego Union-Tribune reported Tuesday that the boy was arrested Sunday near the Otay Mesa Port of Entry in San Diego. Border patrol agents say they believe someone on the south of the U.S.-Mexico border was able to slip the car filled with drugs through a gap in the fencing and then drive it to the teen waiting on the other side. Authorities say an agent found the boy hiding near the border Sunday with a toy car and 50 packages of methamphetamine weighing more than 55 pounds (25 kilograms). Authorities say the car would have had to make multiple trips to transport the drugs.

In Loving Memory of Leonisa ‘Lennie’ Flores Maratita

February 09, 1959 – November 03, 2019

Lennie was called by our Lord to her eternal rest on Sunday, November 03, 2019 in Tigard, Oregon.

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her Children/Spouse and Grandchildren:

Karl Anthony A. Flores/Majorie Cabay (Karl Boy, Camron, Martin Jose, Elizabeth Joy, Peter Jay)
Audie F. Maratita/Alfreda P. Camacho (Shannon, Anthony Jacob)
Len Wayne F. Maratita/Adrienne DLG. Hofschneider (Len Wayne, Jr.)
Sheena Myra F. Maratita/Jerome C. Delos Santos (Benjamin Pedro; Magdalena Maria; Serenity Faith)
Priscilla Isa M. & Stanley T. Iakopo (Filomenaleonisa; Mametto; Audiescott; Stanley Jr.; Conan Briggeman)
Lenette Gloria F. Maratita/Benjamin M. Jones, Jr. (Tatum Mamet; Logan Luke)
Catherine C. Unpingco/Patrick Frank Gleason (Michael U. Sheu)
Jeffrey I. Celis

Sisters and Brothers/Spouse and their Families:

Elizabeth F. & Manuel P. Villagomez; Victoria F. & Dr. Ignacio T. Dela Cruz; Augustin A. & Rebecca Flores; Francisco A. & Anna Flores; Leonardo A. & Eva Flores; Guillerma F. & Deacon Steve Martinez; Benita F. & Joseph D. Sablan; Edward A. & Jovita C. Flores; Bertha F. & Andrew L. Orsini; Joseph A. & Larissa S. Flores

Sisters- and Brothers-in-Law/Spouse and their Families:

†Edward U. & Rosa Maratita; Melchor U. & †Isabel Maratita; Gloria U. Maratita; Beata M. & Francisco Sablan; Elisa M. & †Joaquin Castro; Delia M. & Ramon Camacho; Romana U. Maratita & Jesus Cabrera; Janet U. Maratita; Juan U. & Tracy A. Maratita; Vicente U. & Delia S. Maratita; Rosalinda Ulloa & Donald Camacho

†Lennie is additionally survived by numerous aunts and uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews, extended families and friends.

Mass for the repose of her soul are being offered daily at 6:00AM at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral and at Santa Soledad Church in Kagman at 6:00PM.

Lennie will be with us for the last on Saturday, November 23, 2019 beginning at 09:30AM at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral for Responso Service and public visitation. Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated at 1:00PM followed with Rite of Comital at Mount Carmel Cemetery.

Si Yu’us ma’ase and thank you for your thoughts and prayers.

From the Children and Families of the Late
Mametto Ulloa and Leonisa Flores Maratita



“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.”

Romans 14:7-8

Life & Style

By MESFIN FEKADU
AP MUSIC WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Genre-mashing, bold and chart-topping new artists have caught the attention of the Recording Academy, as Lizzo, Billie Eilish and Lil Nas X lead in nominations at the 2020 Grammy Awards.

Lizzo is in first place, scoring eight bids Wednesday for her fun, positive rap-pop style that has made her not only the year's top new act, but arguably the year's most successful musician.

She and Eilish—who created her best-selling debut album with her brother Finneas at their home studio—each earned nominations in the top four categories: album, song and record of the year, along with best new artist. Lil Nas X, who burst onto music charts with the country-trap anthem “Old Town Road,” earned nominations for album, record and song of the year.

Yola, the British country-soul singer who scored four nominations, said she feels honored to be nominated for best new artist alongside Lizzo, Lil Nas X and Eilish.

“You just couldn’t ignore the contribution that Lizzo’s brought, or Lil Nas, and the conversation he and I have been opening up about country music,” said Yola. “And obviously Billie, she’s killing it.”

“I find it really hard to believe that I was awake—that it was a real thing. It’s such a hard category to get into,” she added.

Rounding out the nominees for best new artist are pop singer Maggie Rogers, Spanish artist Rosalía, New Orleans group Tank and the Bangas and Austin-based duo Black Pumas.

H.E.R., who scored five nominations at last year’s Grammys, including a bid for

best new artist, returns this year with five more nominations. She won two awards in the R&B categories earlier this year and said she’s not sure what advice to offer the new acts who are dominating in Grammy nominations.

“I don’t even know if I can give advice because everything felt so surreal to me. I was just thankful, and I know the nominations itself is just a stamp on all the hard work,” she said. “It solidifies that, like, ‘Wow, I really made it to

even be named among these artists. It’s just a good feeling.”

Yola, who spoke from Germany where she was performing Wednesday, said she couldn’t stop crying after getting the good news. Her other nominations include best American Roots performance and best American Roots song for “Faraway Look,” as well as best Americana album for “Walk Through Fire,” which was produced by Dan Auerbach of the Black Keys.

“I’m an album-maker more

than a person that focuses on singles, so that’s just really meaningful,” she said.

Creating an album instead of focusing on singles is also important to H.E.R., who is returning to the 2020 Grammys with her second nomination for album of the year.

“I can’t believe it honestly. It’s a big category. It’s like the biggest category,” H.E.R. said in a phone interview from London. “It feels like the first time again.”

She’s got some stiff com-

petition for the show’s big award: Along with Lizzo’s “Cuz I Love You,” Eilish’s “When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?” and Lil Nas X’s “7,” H.E.R.’s “I Used to Know Her” will compete with Vampire Weekend’s “Father of the Bride,” Ariana Grande’s “Thank U, Next,” Bon Iver’s “I, I” and Lana Del Rey’s “Norman (Expletive) Rockwell!”

The R&B singer-songwriter-guitarist is also up for record and song of the year with

“Hard Place.” In song of the year, women dominate with seven of the eight nominations, including Lady Gaga, Eilish, Taylor Swift, Lizzo, Lana Del Rey and Tanya Tucker.

“It’s a beautiful thing,” she said of the women taking over. “Absolutely.”

H.E.R. said the key to her success has been staying true to herself and following whatever sound and style she wants to explore. Her goal, she said, is to be a genre-less artist.

“The fact of the matter is—I’m not just one thing. And I love all styles of music,” she said. “I listen to Led Zeppelin and I listen to Jimi Hendrix. And I also listen to a lot of Drake, and I also listen to a lot of hip-hop from today. The range, as far as what I love, is so wide that it’s only right for me to explore the things that I love.”

The 62nd annual Grammy Awards will air live from the Staples Center in Los Angeles on January 26, 2020.

From Lizzo to Lil Nas, new kids on the block rule Grammys



AP PHOTOS

This Nov. 13, 2019 file photo shows rapper Lil Nas X after winning the musical event of the year award at the 53rd annual CMA Awards in Nashville, Tenn.



This April 14, 2019 file photo shows H.E.R. performing at the Coachella Music & Arts Festival in Indio, Calif.



This Oct. 27, 2018 file photo shows Lizzo performing at the Voodoo Music Experience in New Orleans.



In this July 10, 2019 file photo Taylor Swift performs at Amazon Music's Prime Day concert in New York.



This April 20, 2019 file photo shows Billie Eilish performing at the Coachella Music & Arts Festival in Indio, Calif.

Tanya Tucker 'beyond shocked' by Grammy nominations

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—The first time Tanya Tucker was nominated for a Grammy Award, it was 1972, it was for her breakout country hit, “Delta Dawn,” and she was just a teen. Now more than 45 years later, Tucker finds herself nominated for four Grammys, including song of the year for “Bring My Flowers Now,” competing against the likes of Lady Gaga and Taylor Swift.

“I’m beyond shocked. I’m very, very surprised,” Tucker told The Associated Press on

Wednesday morning after the nominations were announced. She was also nominated for best country album for “While I’m Livin’,” best country solo performance and best country song for “Bring My Flowers Now.”

Although some may call her first album of new material in 17 years and her first Grammy nominations since 1993 a comeback, Tucker prefers to call the recognition “a start.”

“I’m very grateful that I could represent the music that

brought me to the dance, the country music I was raised on,” Tucker said. “But it’s a start for me to do a lot of other kinds of music and that’s what I’ve been wanting to do.”

The aptly titled song was co-written by her producer, Grammy-winner Brandi Carlile, along with and Phil and Tim Hanseroth. The tune has Tucker reflecting on the long shadow of the miles she’s traveled, and the regrets and joys of a life well lived. The album was also produced by Shooter

Jennings.

“I remember my dad telling me, maybe even before I got started, he told me, ‘Tanya, the biggest song you’re gonna have is the one you write yourself,’” Tucker said. “And here it is. It’s happened.”

Tucker now has 14 nominations over her career, but no wins. Now 61, Tucker said she’s ready for a win.

“I hope we get lucky this time,” Tucker said. “If I don’t, I’m still a winner. I already won. I’m still here. So I win.”



Tanya Tucker arrives at the 53rd annual CMA Awards at Bridgestone Arena on Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2019, in Nashville, Tenn.

Q&A: Mark Ruffalo on playing the lawyer who took on DuPont

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Mark Ruffalo learned about corporate attorney Rob Bilott, who for 20 years battled DuPont to expose the harmful effects of the chemical PFOA, along with most of the country: In 2016 through an article in The New York Times Magazine.

A cold call from a West Virginia farmer in 1998 who believed his creek was being contaminated and his animals poisoned by DuPont runoffs began the long investigation that ended in 2017 when DuPont and Chemours Co.

agreed to pay more than \$600 million in a class action lawsuit on behalf of thousands.

Ruffalo was captivated and immediately set out to acquire the rights to make Nathaniel Rich's "The Lawyer Who Became DuPont's Worst Nightmare" into a legal thriller in which he'd play Bilott.

"It's a horror story that has to be told," Ruffalo said. "It's a story for our time."

The result, "Dark Waters," directed by Todd Haynes and co-starring an impressive ensemble including Anne Hathaway, Tim

Robbins, Bill Camp, William Jackson Harper and Bill Pullman opens Thursday night in theaters. Bilott also authored a book about the ordeal, "Exposure," which hit shelves in October.

DuPont said in a statement that it believes the film "misrepresents things that happened years ago, including our history, our values and science." The company also said it supports regulating the chemicals spotlighted in "Dark Waters."

Ruffalo spoke to The Associated Press about the film. Remarks have been edited for clarity and brevity.

AP: Was it difficult to get the rights?

RUFFALO: I was in the process of acquiring the rights after reading (the article) and I got a call from my friends at Participant Media who said, "Hey I think we're actually bidding against each other for this story. We love it. Would you like to join forces with us?" I'd done "Spotlight" with them and I was like, "I would like that." And then we started to develop it ... This thing happened in record time. It (usually) takes 5-7 years to get a movie made.

AP: Why did you think of Todd Haynes to direct?

RUFFALO: We'd been bumping into each other for years and I'd been such a big fan of his. I thought he would do something really beautiful with this. It needs that kind of spaciousness and depth to really make it work because there's so much legalese and data that unless we're attached to this character and really understand him, no one will stay with this story. (Haynes) would figure out a way to bridge 20 years in a movie elegantly and he would make



This Nov. 13, 2019 photo shows actor Mark Ruffalo posing for a portrait to promote his film "Dark Waters" at The Whitby Hotel in New York.

the most gorgeous version of this movie.

AP: When did you meet Rob Bilott and start to develop a relationship with him?

RUFFALO: Very early on. While we were in talks of acquiring the story, I wanted to talk to him about it. I was on the phone with him for quite some time laying out my vision for it. But I wanted to

know more. I felt like the whole story wasn't really in that New York Times article. Especially concerning his relationship to (his law firm) Taft and what that must have been like and how difficult that must have been. The article really doesn't get into that.

AP: Was there anything that surprised you about him?

RUFFALO: He's passion-

ate (but) he's not emotional. He's the opposite of what, as an actor, you'd want him to be. He's deeply righteous but he's not political. He doesn't have an axe to grind. He's a corporate defense attorney! He's the guy who would normally defend these companies. That was so remarkable to me. That's what made the story. That's what made me thought this could be a movie.

AP: When you read that initial story, did you have a late-night moment like Rob does in the movie where you're throwing out all the Teflon products?

RUFFALO: Yes. I (changed) everything. I have a water filter on the house. I've stopped buying even my favorite progressive sports brands that use PFOA in their waterproofing.

AP: What are you hoping audiences take from this?

RUFFALO: Just having the knowledge. Knowledge is power. Before you didn't know so you couldn't even make a choice. We were living with this stuff. It was all around us and we had no idea so we couldn't even decide whether it was something we wanted in our life or not. There's power in that, just being able to say, "Hey I don't want this in my life. This causes six diseases so I'm not going to cook on this anymore, I'm not going to buy these products anymore. I'm going to find the alternative."

It's like the priest molestation scandal in "Spotlight." What really made the change in the world was what people learned from what that they didn't know about before, told in a human story that they could relate to in their hearts and minds.

Susan Choi, Sarah M. Broom win National Book Awards

NEW YORK (AP) — Susan Choi's novel "Trust Exercise," in which a high school romance is spun out into a web of memories and perspectives, has won the National Book Award for fiction.

Sarah M. Broom's family memoir "The Yellow House" won in nonfiction and Martin W. Sandler's "1919 The Year That Changed America" for young people's literature. The winner for best translated book was Laszlo Krasznahorkai's "Baron Wenckheim's Homecoming," translated from Hungarian by Otilie Mulzet. In poetry, the winner was Arthur Sze's "Sight Lines."

The 70th annual National Book Awards were presented Wednesday night at a dinner benefit gala in downtown Manhattan, with winners each receiving \$10,000. Finalists were chosen by panels of authors, critics, booksellers and others in the literary community. Publishers submitted more than 1,700

books for consideration.

Choi expressed gratitude not just for the award, but for the writing life, saying that writing and teaching showed her that the word was "its own reward." Her other books include the Pulitzer Prize finalist "American Woman" and the PEN/Faulkner finalist "A Person of Interest."

Other speakers offered emotional tributes to loved ones and cited the written word as a source of healing, action and community in an unsettling world. Krasznahorkai praised his translator, Muzlet, and marveled how the change from one language to another could make one "feel at home in the United States of America."

Broom singled out her mother for awe and gratitude, remembering how she raised 12 children and absorbed words everywhere from the grocery store to package labels, "always wolfing down words. Insatiable."

Weary wife is ready to leave loveless, unfulfilling marriage

DEAR ABBY: I have been married for 24 years and have two daughters, 18 and 14. I'm in a business with my husband and work six days a week. We don't take vacations, go on date nights or spend time together outside of work.

I have had my own bedroom for 15 years because he needs his sleep (he is 15 years older). Our sex life ended two years ago because he says I'm too heavy. (I should lose 40 pounds and so could he.) I do my best to take care of dentist and doctor appointments for the kids, cook healthy meals, prepare for the holidays, drive school carpool, etc.

I feel unappreciated, taken for granted and trapped. He complains that I'm not giving him attention, but then he'll comment on my appearance or criticize me for small tasks that I didn't do "his" way.

I'm tired and overworked. Is it wrong to want to divorce him and be free of this loveless marriage? I cannot picture living this boring, unfulfilling life for the next five or 10 years. I have fantasized about a life without him every single day for the last year.

I don't claim to be perfect—I'm patient and easygoing to a fault. But he has had two affairs and blames me for them. I have been here for the business and the kids, but what about me? I have been going to night school to take up nursing as a new career to support myself as a backup plan.

I know what I need to do, but I guess I'm looking for valida-

tion. There's got to be more to life than what I'm living.

FED UP IN MICHIGAN

DEAR FED UP: I agree. That you think you will be happier apart from a spouse who deprives you of companionship and affection, cheats, blames you for it and criticizes you regularly is understandable. Under these circumstances, your feelings are valid. However, before making any announcements, schedule an appointment with an attorney who can guide you in what steps to take to protect yourself.

DEAR ABBY: "Cheryl" has been one of my best friends for a very long time. She has helped me through many issues and even some depression over the years, as I have done for her. We live several states apart and talk on a daily basis. Neither of us is dating now, although we both use dating apps and websites.

Lately, Cheryl has been asking me to help her sort through her messages. It has become torture for me because I have begun having romantic feelings for her. I don't know if it would be fair to tell her how I feel about her because of the geographical distance. I know she won't move to be with me because she helps to take care of her father, who lives with her.

I wouldn't have an issue with moving there, but I don't want to make that decision unless I know her feelings are similar. I also don't want to risk losing a friend. I'm not sure if I should just bury these feelings and say nothing, or let her

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



know. Please help.

CONFLICTED IN TENNESSEE

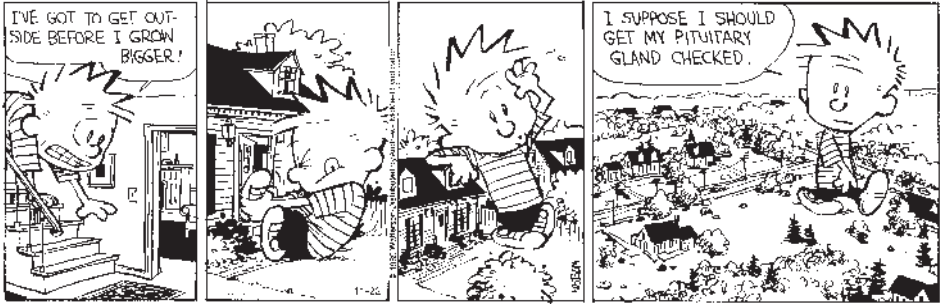
DEAR CONFLICTED: The first thing you should tell your friend is that you are not comfortable sorting through her messages. When she asks you why, explain that after these many years of best friendship, you have begun to develop romantic feelings for her. How she reacts will help you to determine what—if anything—to do next. Right now, you are in limbo. She may or may not reciprocate your feelings. But if she doesn't, you will be emotionally free to find love elsewhere.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

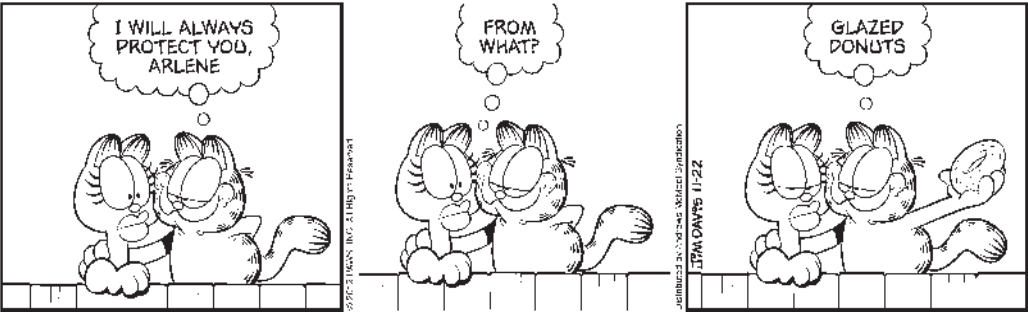
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



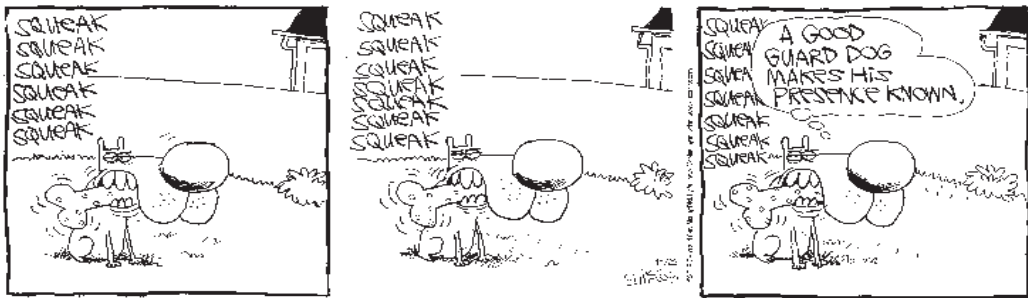
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Bullet-proof garments

6 Chess piece

9 Roast VIPs

12 Cap

13 Kimono closer

14 Right angle

15 "Swell!"

16 Special anniversary

18 Chewy candy

20 Tide type

21 Be sick

23 Gun the engine

24 Representative

25 Entreaty

27 Prepare for battle again

29 Assembly with all members present

31 Baby's wear

35 '70s club

37 Poolroom prop

DOWN

1 Moving-day rental

2 Away from WSW

3 Marvel Comics mastermind

4 One of the Jackson 5

5 Use elbow grease on

6 California desert

7 Border on

8 Pen tip

9 Donnybrook

10 Pristine

11 Nodded off

17 Director Bergman

19 Bacteria

21 PC program

22 Under the weather

24 "Entourage" character

26 Nobel Sakharov

28 Pueblo material

30 Sue Grafton's "— for Undertow"

32 One who's out early

33 Green prefix

34 "Top Hat" studio

36 Insertion symbols

38 Nonbeliever

39 Obliterate

40 Attorney—

42 Stitched

45 Penny

46 Mani counterpart

48 Floral ring

50 Stick with a kick

51 Snake's warning

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 11-22

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Scarlett Johansson, 35; Mark Ruffalo, 52; Jamie Lee Curtis, 61; Steve Van Zandt, 69.

Happy Birthday: A steady pace forward will help you reach set goals. Putting everything in its place will bring you peace of mind and encourage you to start doing things that bring you joy. Use your imagination, and you'll come up with profound ways to use your skills and experience to excel. Monitor how you spend your time and your money. Your numbers are 2, 14, 21, 27, 31, 37, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Put an all-out effort into whatever you do, but don't take on more than you can handle. It's better to do an excellent job than try to break a record. Pay off or collect an old debt. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Anxiousness will push you to act prematurely. Spend your time and your money wisely. Don't let assumptions interfere with your ability to handle personal matters reasonably. Use discipline and hard work to reach your goal. Stubbornness will hold you back. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You'll be able to drum up the enthusiasm and support you need to forge ahead with something you want to pursue. Matters concerning your past and an older relative should be handled with care and plenty of attention. *****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Look at all sides of a situation before you make a move. Talks will help you understand what's possible and encourage you to try doing things differently. A domestic problem should be

handled with care. Don't make too many plans. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Socialize, attend a party, relax and have some fun. Getting together with someone who makes you laugh, enjoys the same things you do and brings out the best in you should be your plan. Romance is on the rise, and personal improvements can be initiated. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take whatever you want to do and move it outside your home environment. Indulgent behavior will spin out of control and lead to an argument. Explore creative outlets, or do something to improve your relationship with someone you love. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Engage in an activity or project that you want to pursue. Call on friends who are as enthusiastic as you to join in the fun. Discuss the changes you want to make and, once approved, take action. Romance is in the stars. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): How you help others will make a difference in the way you feel about life. There will be a fine line between giving too much and too little. Remaining balanced will be necessary if you want to maintain healthy relationships. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Take whatever you do seriously, and do it right the first time. Criticism will adversely affect your mental state. If you need help, call someone you find uplifting. Personal improvements will help build confidence. Choose love over chaos. ****

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

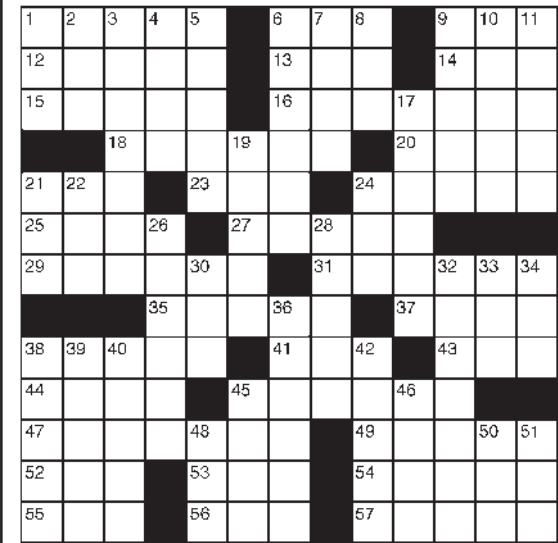
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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Keep life simple, accomplishments doable and your plans affordable. Maintaining control will be easy if you are fair in your assessments and you make changes that benefit everyone involved. Diplomacy will make a difference to how well your ideas are received. **

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Challenges will lead to change. Evaluate your mental, physical and emotional status as well as your financial or legal position. Consider adjustments that will ease stress and help you make attitude improvements. Personal gains or benefits are encouraged. *****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll have to multitask to accomplish your plans. Rethink your priorities, and fine-tune your to-do list. Use intelligence to be open to suggestions, and consider joining forces with someone who has just as much to offer as you do. ***

Birthday Baby: You are generous, playful and easygoing. You are secretive and trendy. Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

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WONDERWORD By DAVID CUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

SNAIL SLIME IS GOOD FOR YOUR FACE?! Solution: 7 letters

H D S T C E T O R P F A S T C
D Y A H T U O Y F S U E I N O
S N D M U L T I T R L E L A S
E C A R A U C R E A M S K P T
C O L L A G E N S Z B N M A S
R S M E I T E T A O O U I J M
E M B O C A I R G R B T R U S
T E D H L C H O I R N R C N M
I T R I A L S T N A E I I A S
O I Y T I R U P G T N E C U C
N C N M A R K S A I T N C U K
S K E C L S L W K O E T T E O
R O S A C E A S R S A S Y A R
S E S A E R C P E P T I D E E
S O A P M D E T S E V R A H A

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Yesterday's Answer: Coffee

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CONTROL COMMISSION

Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that it will hold its Regular Meeting on Wednesday, November 27, 2019, at 9:00 am at the TCGCC Conference Room.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY

a. Call to Order

b. Roll Call

c. Adoption of Agenda

d. Adoption of Minutes

October 31, 2019 – Regular Meeting

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS¹

III. REPORTS

a. Chair's Report

b. Executive Director's Report

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Review of By-Laws

b. Licensing Matters

1. Tinian Entertainment Company

2. Alter City Group, Inc.

3. Request of Clear Management, Ltd.

V. NEW BUSINESS

a. TCGCC Resolution No. 19-001

b. TCGCC Resolution No. 19-002

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION²

VII. MISCELLANEOUS/
ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

¹Public Comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to 3 minutes. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.

²Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Commission may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

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Astros only team under investigation



ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)— Major

League Baseball commissioner Rob Manfred kicked off the owners meetings Tuesday by addressing the alleged high-tech sign-stealing scheme by the Houston Astros and the league's ongoing investigation.

Manfred said he can impose his authority to go beyond the previous discipline of fines, loss of draft picks and pulling international signing pool allocations if it's found the Astros did steal signs through technology.

He also said he doesn't believe any other team is involved in the scandal. Late last week, The Athletic reported that Red Sox manager Alex Cora and New York Mets manager Carlos Beltran had devised the method while with Houston in 2017.

"Right now, we are focused on the information that we have with respect to the Astros," Manfred said. "I'm not going to speculate on whether other people are going to be involved. We'll deal with that if it happens, but I'm not going to speculate about that. I have no reason to believe it extends beyond the Astros at this point in time."

He said he hopes the investigation would be done by the start of the 2020 season and called the potential rule violation "the most serious matter—it relates to the integrity of the sport," per the Associated Press. MLB took new measures prior to the 2019 season to make their sign-stealing rules in line with modern technology.

The league opened an investigation last week into the 2017 allegations, but has questions about the two seasons since.

The Astros are accused of stealing signs by using a camera set up in the outfield during the 2017 regular season. The footage was shown on a TV between the dugout and clubhouse and players would relay off-speed pitches by banging on a garbage can, pitcher Mike Fiers told The Athletic. Video emerged on Twitter attempting to prove the set-up and there is reportedly a paper trail via email from Astros executives to scouts.

The punishment, if the Astros are found to have engaged in the act, will set a precedent moving forward. Manfred said Tuesday he would not "speculate on what the appropriate discipline is."

"That depends on how the facts are established at the end of the investigation. The general warning I issued to the clubs, I stand by. It certainly could be all of those [past dis-



Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred speaks to the media during a tour of the under construction new Texas Rangers stadium in Arlington, Texas, Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2019. Manfred hopes the investigation into sign stealing by the Houston Astros will be completed by next season and says he has broad authority to impose discipline beyond fines, the loss of amateur draft picks, and taking away international signing bonus pool allocation.

didn't even let that question get finished before responding, "Any other issues?"

Two sheriff's deputies working security in the lobby then stepped in and escorted the Astros owner toward a flight of stairs that led upstairs to where the meetings were taking place.

Crane's appearance at the owners' meetings was his first near media since last week's report, which led to MLB expanding its investigation of the team.

Baseball was already looking into the Astros for an incident during the playoffs. The team fired assistant general manager Brandon Taubman for directing inappropriate comments at female reporters during a clubhouse celebration after the Astros beat the New York Yankees to win the AL pennant on Oct. 19. The team issued and then retracted a statement accusing a Sports Illustrated reporter of trying to "fabricate a story." Taubman was fired on Oct. 24.

Not long after his lobby encounter with reporters that lasted less than a half-minute, Crane joined some other owners for a tour of the Rangers' new \$1.2 billion stadium being built across the street from the ballpark the team called home the past 26 seasons.

Manfred toured the construction site Tuesday, when he addressed MLB's investigation into the Astros, who lost to Washington in Game 7 of the World Series.

"Any allegation that relates to a rule violation that could affect the outcome of a game or games is the most serious matter—it relates to the integrity of the sport," Manfred said then. "People want the game played consistent with our rules, and feel it's important that we figure out exactly what happened here and take steps to make sure that it doesn't happen in the future by imposing appropriate discipline."

Manfred didn't speculate on what that discipline would be and said it would be based on what is determined by "the facts established at the end of the investigation."

ciplinary actions], but my authority under the major league constitution would be broader than those things as well."

Previous discipline by MLB includes a \$2 million fine and taking two first-round draft picks from the St. Louis Cardinals

in 2017. The Astros benefited since Cardinals scouting director Chris Correa was found to have hacked into Houston's internal database in 2015.

No comment on probe
Houston Astros owner Jim

Crane declined comment Wednesday on MLB's investigation into allegations of sign stealing against his team.

While walking through the lobby of the luxury hotel where MLB owners were meeting, Crane stopped briefly when ap-

proached by reporters.

"If you want to talk about baseball, I'll talk about baseball," Crane said. "What else do you want to talk about?"

When someone started to ask whether he had any comment about the allegations, Crane

Yankees release Ellsbury, add 7 players

NEW YORK (AP)—The Yankees have given up on Jacoby Ellsbury, cutting the off-injured outfielder with more than \$26 million left in his \$153 million, seven-year contract.

Ellsbury, who has not played since 2017, was released Wednesday to clear a 40-man roster spot as New York added seven players to protect them from next month's Rule 5 draft.

Ellsbury is owed \$26,285,714 by the Yankees in one of their biggest free agent mistakes: \$21,142,857 for next season plus a \$5 million buyout of a \$21 million team option for 2021.

New York also cut frequently injured first baseman Greg Bird and left-hander Nestor Cortes Jr., designating the pair for assignment.

Outfielder Estevan Florial was added to the major league roster along with right-handers Deivi García, Luis Gil, Brooks Kiske, Luis Medina, Nick Nelson and Miguel Yajure.

Now 36, Ellsbury hit .264 with 39 homers, 198 RBIs

and 102 stolen bases in 520 games in six seasons with the Yankees. He spent his first seven seasons with Boston and was in All-Star in 2011, and arrived in New York with a .284 career average, 104 homers, 512 RBIs and 343 steals for Boston.

Ellsbury injured an oblique muscle in his right side early during spring training in 2018, developed a bad back and had surgery on Aug. 6 to repair a torn labrum in his left hip. He experienced plantar fasciitis in his right foot during his rehab program before spring training this year.

Bird, who turned 27 on Nov. 9, arrived in New York with great promise in 2015, debuting Aug. 13 and hitting .261 with 11 homers and 31 RBIs in 46 games. He missed all of 2016 following surgery that Feb. 2 to repair a torn labrum in his right shoulder, an injury originally sustained that May with Double-A Trenton.

In other developments, the Tampa Bay Rays have designated infielder Matt Duffy for

assignment and traded pitcher Jose De Leon to the Cincinnati Reds in exchange for a player to be named and cash.

The team also announced minor league infielder Curtis Mead was acquired in a trade that sent left-hander Christopher Sanchez to the Philadelphia Phillies. In addition, five prospects were added to the 40-man roster before Wednesday night's deadline.

A .282 career hitter, Duffy played just 46 games this year after starting the season on the injured list with left hamstring tightness. It was the third time in the past four seasons he missed significant time because of injuries since being acquired from the San Francisco Giants at the 2016 trade deadline.

De Leon is a 27-year-old right-hander who made three relief appearances over four stints with the Rays after spending the first half of the 2019 season rehabbing from Tommy John surgery. Sanchez, 22, split time this year between Class A affiliates Bowling Green and Charlotte

and Triple-A Durham.

Infielders Vidal Brujan, Lucius Fox and Kevin Padlo, infielder/right-handed pitcher Jake Cronenworth and catcher Ronaldo Hernandez were added to the 40-man roster.

In Oakland, Jharel Cotton made 24 starts for the A's in 2017. After two years ravaged from injuries, the right-hander was designated for assignment on Wednesday.

The A's DFA'd Cotton to make room on the 40-man roster for pitching prospect Daulton Jefferies.

Cotton, 27, went 2-0 with a 2.15 ERA over five starts as a rookie in 2016. He looked like someone primed to have a place in the rotation for years to come. But he struggled with his command and had a 5.58 ERA in 2017.

Cotton underwent Tommy John surgery in March 2018, and looked to make his return to the big leagues this past season. He missed all of June with a hamstring injury while rehabbing in the minors, and never found his rhythm on the mound.

Kawhi, PG3 suit up, Clippers edge Celtics in OT



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Lou Williams scored 27 points, Kawhi Leonard and Paul George combined for 42 points in their first game together for the Clippers, and Los Angeles rallied to edge the Boston Celtics 107-104 in overtime Wednesday night.

George scored 25 points. Leonard added 17 and blocked Kemba Walker's potential tying 3-point attempt after injury and rehab had prevented them from playing in the same game over the season's first 14 games.

The Clippers improved to 9-1 at home after rallying from a 10-point deficit in the fourth.

In overtime, George hit a 3-pointer after he missed his first attempt and Patrick Beverley got the offensive rebound, then George fed Beverley for a 3 of his own. George's free throw on a technical foul against Boston coach Brad Stevens completed seven straight points and the Clippers led 104-99.

The Celtics pulled to 104-102 on Jayson Tatum's basket after a wild sequence in which

bodies crashed to the floor as both teams chased a loose ball before Boston got possession.

Beverley hit a 3-pointer from the corner in front of the Clippers' bench for 107-102 lead, igniting Los Angeles fans and quieting the large contingent of Celtics fans in the stands.

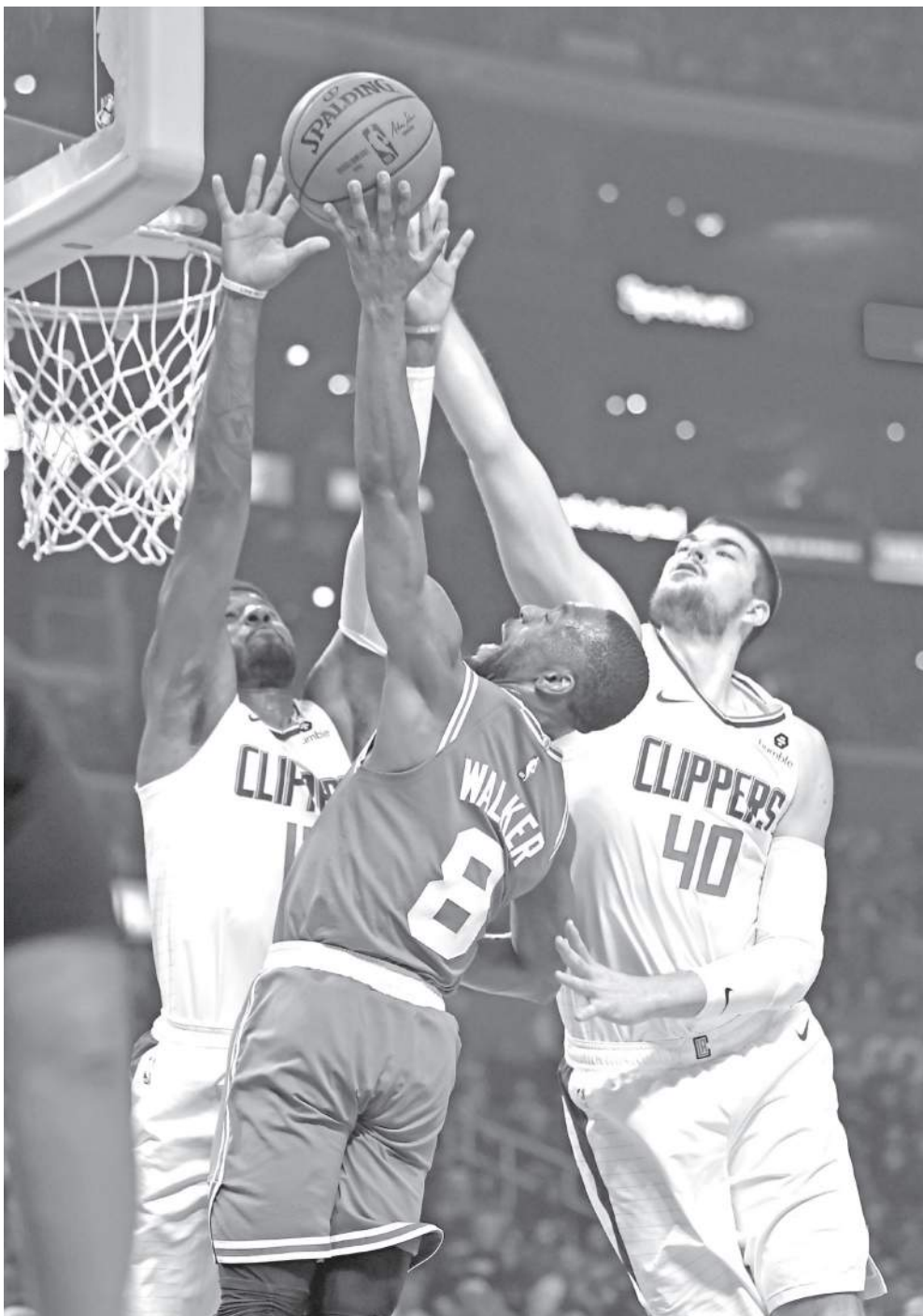
Tatum's basket left the Celtics down by three. Walker, who had 13 points, got free in the corner for the last shot but Leonard leaped to deflect it.

Mavericks 142, Warriors 94

In Dallas, Luka Doncic scored 33 of his 35 points in the first half and had yet another triple-double to help the Mavericks rout the short-handed Golden State Warriors.

Doncic fell a point short of matching Dirk Nowitzki's team record set Nov. 3, 2009, against Utah. In just 17 minutes, Doncic was 10 for 11 from the floor, making 6 of 7 3-pointers, and hit 7 of 8 free throws.

The second-year star from Slovenia had 22 points, five assists and five rebounds in the first quarter alone. He played only 25



^{AP}
Boston Celtics guard Kemba Walker, center, shoots as Los Angeles Clippers forward Paul George, left, and center Ivica Zubac defend during the first half of an NBA game Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2019, in Los Angeles.

Antetokounmpo, the reigning NBA MVP, has had at least 30 points and 10 rebounds an NBA-best nine times this season. The Bucks have won nine of 10 and improved to an NBA-best 8-2 on the road.

Atlanta rookie De'Andre Hunter had a career-high 27 points. Trae Young added 25.

Jazz 103, Timberwolves 95

In Minneapolis, Bojan Bogdanovic scored 30 points, Donovan Mitchell added 26 and Utah beat Minnesota to split a home-and-home series.

Bogdanovic and Mitchell each hit three 3-pointers in the fourth quarter. Bogdanovic was 6 of 11 from 3-point range, and Mitchell 5 of 10 to help Utah rebound for a home loss to Minnesota on Monday night.

Andrew Wiggins had 22 points for Minnesota after missing three games because of personal reasons and an illness. Karl-Anthony Towns was held to 14 points and struggled with foul trouble most of the night.

Wizards 138, Spurs 132

In Washington, Bradley Beal shot 9 for 9 in a 21-point third quarter and finished with 33 to help the Wizards hand San Antonio its seventh consecutive loss.

Davis Bertans, acquired by Washington from San Antonio in the offseason, scored 21 points, and so did Ish Smith.

DeMar DeRozan scored 31 points for San Antonio. The Spurs fell to 5-10.

Nets 101, Hornets 91

In New York, Jarrett Allen had 22 points and 17 rebounds in Brooklyn's victory over Charlotte.

Taurean Prince and Spencer Dinwiddie added 20 points apiece. Brooklyn was without Kyrie Irving for the third straight game because of a right shoulder injury.

Terry Rozier had 18 points for Charlotte.

Bulls 109, Pistons 89

In Chicago, Lauri Markkanen scored 24 points to bust out of a slump, Wendell Carter Jr. had 12 points and 15 rebounds and the Bulls beat Detroit.

Derrick Rose had 18 points and Blake Griffin—in his third game of the season—added 16 for Detroit.

Murray, Djokovic looking forward to 2020 Olympics

MADRID—Andy Murray and Novak Djokovic have their sights set on playing at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

Murray said Wednesday "he would love to compete in Tokyo," and Djokovic acknowledged the Olympics are "very high on the list of wishes for next year."

Murray, the two-time Olympic champion in singles and a three-time Grand Slam winner, has been slowly coming back to full speed after undergoing hip surgery in January. In October, he won his first title since his return.

He defeated Tallon Griekspoor, 6-7 (7), 6-4, 7-6 (5), on Wednesday in his first Davis Cup match with Britain since 2016.

"I've really enjoyed playing in the Olympics," the 32-year-old Murray said. "I've always enjoyed a team environment and competing for my country. Always really enjoyed that. So yeah, I would love to play in Tokyo."

The Olympic gold medalist in 2012 and 2016, Murray said he hopes to "feel healthy" and that his "body feels good" at the end of next year.

"I'd be delighted with that," he said. "That's what I'd like for next year."

Roger Federer has already said he plans to play in To-

kyo, even though it adds to an already packed calendar. And Djokovic, who helped Serbia beat Japan in the new Davis Cup Finals on Wednesday in Madrid, said the Olympics are also part of his plans for 2020.

"I'm going to try to be healthy, be fit, be prepared to play my best," he said. "I played the Tokyo (ATP) tournament, I won it this year. And the Olympic Games are going to be played on the same courts, which are quite good for my style of the game, I think it's quite suitable."

The 32-year-old Djokovic said he expects "fun" games in Japan.

"Olympics are always bringing something extraordinary," he said. "Every four years you get a chance to be part of the most historic sports events in the history of sport. You never get really a chance to, other than in the Olympics, to really sit next to all the elite athletes from their sports and dine with them and just exchange experiences and knowledge and everything. There's a lot of storytelling, a lot of fun."

The Olympics is the only top tournament Djokovic hasn't won in his career. He won the bronze medal in the 2008 Games in Beijing.

minutes total, but still managed 10 rebounds and 11 assists.

Doncic was coming off a 40-point triple-double Monday night against San Antonio, and has an NBA-best seven triple-doubles in 14 games this season.

The Mavericks never trailed and tied a franchise record with 22 3-pointers while sending Golden State to its worst loss since a 1973 playoff game.

Nuggets 105, Rockets 95

In Denver, Nikola Jokic had 27 points and 12 rebounds, Denver played smothering defense on James Harden and the Nuggets snapped Houston's eight-game winning streak.

Harden had 27 points, ending his string of eight consecutive games of 36 or more. He was 8 of 16 from the floor as the Rockets were held under 100 points for the first time this season. Denver is 7-0 this season when keeping an opponent below 100.

Russell Westbrook scored 25 points on 8-of-22 shooting for Houston, and Clint Capela had 21 rebounds.

76ers 109, Knicks 104

In Philadelphia, Ben Simmons hit the first 3-pointer of his career and had 18 points and 13 assists to lead the 76ers past New York.

Mike Scott's fourth 3-pointer with 1:29 left stretched the Sixers' lead to 99-95 and they held on after New York's Marcus Morris hit a pair of 3s in the final 10 seconds. Joel Embiid had 23 points and 13 rebounds, and Scott scored 12 points.

Simmons did the improbable when he fired a 24-footer from the corner in front of the 76ers' bench, sending the crowd into a frenzy. Simmons received a lengthy standing ovation for the first 3-pointer after 17 misses (and one more miss in the postseason).

Raptors 113, Magic 97

In Toronto, Fred VanVleet scored 24 points, Pascal Siakam had 18 points and 11 rebounds and the Raptors snapped Orlando's winning streak at three.

Orlando lost center Nikola Vucevic and forward Aaron Gordon to right ankle injuries in the second quarter.

Raptors rookie Terence Davis scored a career-high 19 points, Norman Powell had 15 points, and Chris Boucher add-

ed 14 points and 11 rebounds. Defending champion Toronto improved to 6-0 at home.

Evan Fournier scored 21 points for Orlando.

Heat 124, Cavaliers 100

In Miami, Duncan Robinson set Miami records for 3-pointers in a quarter and a half on his way to 29 points and the Heat beat Cleveland to remain unbeaten at home.

Playing in front of his college coach—the Cavs' John Beilein, who had Robinson at Michigan—the second-year guard was 9 for 15 from the field, with all those shots coming from behind the arc. Robinson set team marks with seven 3-pointers in the second quarter and eight in the first half.

His flurry helped Miami tie a franchise mark with 75 first-half points.

Tyler Herro added 22 points for Miami. Kevin Love had 25 points and 13 rebounds for Cleveland.

Bucks 135, Hawks 127

In Atlanta, Giannis Antetokounmpo had 33 points and 11 rebounds, Eric Bledsoe scored 28 points and Milwaukee beat Atlanta for its fifth straight victory.

Injured Koepka out, Fowler in at Presidents Cup

AUSTRALIA (AP)—Brooks Koepka's knee injury is bad enough that he withdrew from the Presidents Cup three weeks before it begins.

Koepka, the No. 1 player in the world who led all qualifiers for the American team, said Wednesday the injury he suffered Oct. 18 at the CJ Cup in South Korea is not recovering well enough for him to complete Dec. 12-15 at Royal Melbourne in Australia.

U.S. captain Tiger Woods replaced him with Rickie Fowler.

"I consider it to be a high honor to be part of the 2019 team and I regret not being able to compete," Koepka said in a statement. "Since my injury in Korea, I have been in constant contact with Tiger and assured him that I was making every effort to be 100% in time for the Presidents Cup in Australia. However, I need more time to heal."

Koepka was coming off a season in which he won three times, including a second straight PGA Championship, and had runner-up finishes in the Masters and U.S. Open. When he started the new season in October at Las Vegas, he revealed he had stem cell treatment on his left patella the day after the Tour Championship because his knee had been bothering him over the last five months of the season.

Two weeks later, he was walking down a slope off the tee at the par-5 third hole in the second round of the CJ Cup when his right foot hit a



AP
In this May 5, 2019 file photo, Rickie Fowler hits from a sand trap on the 15th hole during the final round of the Wells Fargo Championship golf tournament at Quail Hollow Club in Charlotte, N.C.

wet piece of concrete and he landed hard on his left knee for support. He shot 75 and withdrew after the round, returning to Florida for treatment.

Koepka has not spoken publicly about the nature of the injury. He was in touch with Woods, who had been contemplating alternative plans.

"Brooks and I talked, and he's disappointed that he won't be able to compete," Woods said. "I told him to get well soon, and that we're sorry

he won't be with us in Australia. He would clearly be an asset both on the course and in the team room."

Woods, who used one of his four captain's picks on himself after winning in Japan, originally left Fowler off the team and said it was the hardest phone call he made when telling prospective players he was not taking them.

Fowler, who got married in

the offseason, has not played since the Tour Championship on Aug. 25 and withdrew from the Mayakoba Golf Classic last week because of a stomach bug he picked up during his honeymoon.

He is in the field for the Hero World Challenge in the Bahamas the week before the Presidents Cup.

"When I heard Brooks wasn't going to be ready to play, I was bummed for him

and the team," Fowler said. "Then I got a call from both Brooks and Tiger. I was humbled and excited to be given the chance. To be picked by Tiger to compete with him and the rest of the team is very special. It is impossible to replace the world's No. 1, but I can assure my teammates and American golf fans that I will be prepared and ready to do my part to bring home the Presidents Cup."

Koepka had not entered the

Hero World Challenge. It remained unclear whether he would be fit in time for the Sentry Tournament of Champions on Jan. 2-5 in Kapalua, or whether he would return to the Saudi International later in January.

Fowler has played on the last two Presidents Cup teams, going 2-0-1 in team play with Justin Thomas at Liberty National in 2017. Among other U.S. players on this team, Fowler previously has played with Patrick Reed and Dustin Johnson.



CLEVELAND (AP)—In those raw emotional moments following the stunning brawl with the Pittsburgh Steelers, Baker Mayfield exuded calming leadership.

The Browns are going to need more of that from their quarterback.

Mayfield, who has played much better the past three weeks after a slow start to his second NFL season, displayed an established veteran's poise in the hazy postgame following Thursday night's ugly sequence when Browns defensive end Myles Garrett struck Steelers quarterback Mason Rudolph in the head with a swung helmet.

During a live TV interview before leaving the field, Mayfield managed to find the right balance by calling Garrett's act "inexcusable" while also supporting his teammate.

It was a delicate moment, one handled by the 24-year-old Mayfield, who hasn't always shown such maturity. Earlier this season, he stormed away during an interview after ob-

Mayfield exudes leadership at critical time for Browns

jecting to a line of questioning.

But in a far more serious situation, Mayfield shined.

"It's a tough spot," Browns guard Joel Bitonio told reporters following Wednesday's practice. "It's such an emotional game anyway. You know they try to give us a 10-minute cool-down period to not talk to you guys you don't want to say anything you'll regret, and he's on the field talking about it pretty much as we see it happening. It was a tough spot for him, but I think he handled it like a leader."

For Mayfield, it's part of the gig.

As the unquestioned face of Cleveland's franchise, Mayfield carries the burden of performing on the field while handling non-football duties off it. It's a strange mix of player and public relations spokesman.

Browns coach Freddie Kitchens was pleased with how his young QB stepped up in a scalding spotlight.

"There are a lot of emotions in football, and then when you

walk off the football field, those emotions do not just stop," Kitchens said. "Sometimes you just say what you feel at the moment. I was the same way. You get asked questions and you want to answer questions. You want to be truthful with people, and I think he did a good job of that."

Mayfield downplayed the impact of his postgame comments. However, he did acknowledge some of his past experiences helped prepare him for the kind of adversity the Browns are facing in a season of roadblocks.

"I would not say that I am made for this moment," said Mayfield, who has five touchdown passes and no interceptions in the past three games. "It is just about being that person every day that this team needs in the position I am in being a captain and showing the way and setting the standard, like the things I have been talking about. I would not necessarily say that I am made for this moment. I think I was made to come here in Cleveland and try

and set the standard and culture each and every day."

Mayfield said he has spoken with Garrett, who had the appeal of his indefinite suspension heard Wednesday in New York. A ruling is expected in the next two days.

Mayfield wanted to make sure his teammate didn't feel alone.

"I've been in that moment," he said. "It was a smaller scale in college -- my Kansas mistake. You feel that weight of everybody crushing you. I wanted him to know that we have support for him, and he can lean on us."

Mayfield was referring to an incident during his senior season at Oklahoma. After some Kansas players refused to shake his hand during the pregame coin toss, Mayfield grabbed his crotch while shouting expletives at the Jayhawks during the game. He didn't start the next game, and the moment added to that reputation.

Mayfield has mostly toned down those antics, though there are still times when his emotions run high.

As for his play, Mayfield is looking much more as he did a year ago, when he broke the league's rookie record with 27 TD passes. He's making better decisions with the ball, staying in the pocket and delivering passes with accuracy.

"Baker has come into his own again," Bitonio said. "He had some unlucky turnovers I would say early in the season and that kind of carried over a little bit. But he's kind of looking like himself. He made a few plays with his feet, made some throws, even ran the ball in one time on the QB sneak. It's some life, some good things that we're seeing from him, and I know he's extremely focused right now."

Meanwhile, Myles Garrett looked composed and casual, a stark contrast to the last time he was seen in public.

Stylishly dressed in a bright blue suit and black turtleneck, the Cleveland Browns' star defensive end met Wednesday with an appeals officer in New York in hopes of getting a reduction to an indefinite NFL

suspension that has temporarily ended Garrett's season and tarnished his career.

Garrett was banned last week for the rest of the regular season and playoffs, if Cleveland makes them, for striking Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Mason Rudolph with a helmet. Garrett appealed and his case was heard by league-appointed officer James Thrash, a former NFL player, who will either lessen the penalty or put a definitive number of games on it.

The former No. 1 overall draft pick spent roughly two hours in the league's Manhattan offices before leaving with his representatives. He did not speak to the media.

In the closing seconds of the Browns' 21-7 victory over the rival Steelers on Thursday night, Garrett wrestled Rudolph to the ground before they scuffled. Pittsburgh's QB unsuccessfully tried to rip off Garrett's helmet before the two got to their feet.

That's when Garrett yanked off Rudolph's helmet, swinging it and connecting with the top of the QB's head.

Patriots Angels win debut in NSA fast-pitch tourney

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER



The Patriots Angels drew first blood in the Natibu Sports Association's 2nd Annual All Girls Fast-pitch League early this month at the Capitol Hill Ballfield.

The Patriots Angels nosed out Balas, 15-14, to complete a come-from-behind win. The Patriots Angels were able to grab victory from Balas despite struggling in the first two innings.

Balas scored five runs apiece in the first and second

inning to take a 10-0 lead. Balas added four more at the top of the third inning for a commanding 14-0 advantage.

However, Balas failed to keep the upper hand, as the Patriots Angels worked their way back into the game, starting at the bottom of the third.

The Patriots Angels got five runs in the third inning and tallied three more in the fourth to move within 6, 8-14. The Patriots Angels then were held to one run in the fifth inning, allowing Balas to retain the driver's seat.

Balas, despite having the lead, was threatened, as it failed to hit the board in the last four innings, while the

Patriots Angels made one final push at the bottom of the sixth to steal the win.

The Patriots Angels earned six runs in the penultimate inning to grab the lead, 15-14.

They kept the shaky lead and the victory, as they stranded runners at first and second

base after the Patriots Angels pitcher caught a line drive from Balas' fifth batter.



KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

A Niners batter gets ready to swing, while the Patriots Angels catcher positions at the plate during their game in the Natibu Sports Association's 2nd Annual All Girls Fast-pitch League last Saturday at the Capitol Hill Ballfield.

SLLB meeting tomorrow

The Saipan Little League Baseball will have its general membership meeting this Saturday at 1pm.

The meeting will be held at the conference

room of the Department of Public Works' ground transportation office in Lower Base.

For more information, call Mike Borja at 483-2526. (PR)

KANG

From Page 32

against Anthony Gregoire and Jun Cheol Hwang to clinch the division title.

Meanwhile, Wataru Kadokura and June Yu bagged the boys U12 doubles championship after posting a 2-0 record in the round-robin contest.

The pair first topped Yutaka Kadokura and Ki Won Lee 6-1, 6-2, and then defeated Takeru Jim and Nason Wessel, 7-5, 6-1. Jim and Wessel finished second after beating Yutaka and Lee, 6-0, 6-1.

Besides the junior singles

and doubles, Week 1 of the TanHoldings Tennis Classic also featured a mini tennis competition.

Eli Cho won the division, while Hannah Chae and Ian Chae finished second and third, respectively. Jeon Bin Park, Jihun Park, Landon Pudney, Guido Jambor, Devin Wang, Isa Nishitani, and Ki Eun Lee were the other participants in the mini tennis event.

Action in the TanHoldings Tennis Classic will resume this weekend with the staging of the adults singles, doubles, and mixed doubles games.

posted the pair of goals for Old B Bank.

In other results last weekend, Kanoa handed Island Star its first loss of the season, 7-4, to force a tie for first place in Division B.

Andrew Omelau towed Kanoa to the upset win after firing four goals. Ian Maniago registered two goals, while Markus Toves had one. Island Star, which won its first five matches, got one goal apiece from Zhi Peng Lin, Xiao Feng Lin, Ri Cheng Xian, and Kaijun Ma.

Joeten 1, TDI start finals series Saturday

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

The finals series in the 2018 JP World Corp. Customer Appreciation Basketball League will begin tomorrow with Joeten 1 and Top Development Inc. gunning for the important win in Game 1.

Joeten 1 and TDI know how crucial the opener is, as the championship is only a best-

of-three affair. Joeten 1 advanced to the title series after sweeping Triple J in their best-of-three semis duel, while TDI prevailed over RNV Best Deal in the other Final Four pairing.

Before making it to the finals, Joeten 1 and TDI topped their respective pools in the elimination round so the title showdown is expected to be a close one.



Joeten 1 will be pinning its hopes on Chris Lilles, Alex Lauron, Ernest Duenas, Vince Teregeyo, and K.J. Kabiriel. Completing the Joeten 1 roster are Ferdie Tobias, Patrick Rotap, Juanito Sambile, and Sydney Quan.

TDI, on the other hand, will lean on the backcourt duo of Sean Rabasto and Raymond Velasco. The squad will also

count on big man Darwin Barbo, Jerome Reyes, and Nestor Arreza.

The TDI-Joeten 1 finals opener will start at 7pm after the 6pm game between Triple J and RNV Best Deal, which will battle for the third place honors.

Game 2 will also be played this weekend, as Joeten 1 and TDI collide anew this Sunday. Game 3, if necessary, will be scheduled next weekend.

TANHOLDINGS

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Confederation U19 Championship 2020 Qualifiers, returned to action with a 12-2 victory over the Old B Bank last Sunday.

John Michael Rojas and Skyler Poon delivered three goals apiece for All Blue, while Taka Borja added two. Razeff Altamirano, Joshua De Leon, John Bucayo, and Sebastian Manabat made one each for All Blue, while Panapa Peteru and Merrick Toves

posted the pair of goals for Old B Bank.

In other results last weekend, Kanoa handed Island Star its first loss of the season, 7-4, to force a tie for first place in Division B.

Andrew Omelau towed Kanoa to the upset win after firing four goals. Ian Maniago registered two goals, while Markus Toves had one. Island Star, which won its first five matches, got one goal apiece from Zhi Peng Lin, Xiao Feng Lin, Ri Cheng Xian, and Kaijun Ma.

SEDA Bud Light Cup enters semis

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

The Thursday Division of the Saipan Electronics Darts Association Bud Light Cup is down to four teams.

The 6JMS Bandits, 6JMS 80 Proofers, 6JMS Rektify, and Uncle Mel's Dartholiks made it to the Final Four after prevailing in their quarterfinal

matches last week.

The 6JMS Bandits defeated 6JMS Darty Minded, 8-4; the 6JMS 80 Proofers downed Jonny's Serial Killaz, 8-7; 6JMS Rektify topped Jonny's Parekeyu, 8-6; and Uncle Mel's Dartholiks outclassed Oleai Five-0, 8-6.

The Bandits won in the



Partners 501, got three victories in the Singles Crazy, and two apiece in the Partners 701 and Singles Half-It. The 80 Proofers earned a victory in Partners 501, Team 101, and Singles Half-It, three wins in the Singles Crazy, and two in the Partners Regular Cricket.

Rektify topped the Partners

501, Partners 701, and Singles Half-It, recorded two wins in the Partners Regular Cricket, and had three victories in the Singles Crazy. As for Uncle Mel's Dartholiks, it prevailed in the Partners 501 and Partners Regular Cricket, got two wins each in the Singles Crazy and Singles Half-It, and swept the Partners 701.

The semis matches were played last night and results were unavailable at press time.

M-LEAGUE STANDINGS

(As of Nov. 20, 2019)

DIVISION A

TEAMS	W	D	L	PTS	GA	GA	GD
TanHoldings	5	0	2	15	28	18	10
All Blue	4	1	0	13	20	5	15
Paire	3	1	2	10	19	12	7
Old B Bank	1	0	5	3	6	20	-14
KFAS	1	0	5	3	9	27	-18

DIVISION B

Kanoa	5	0	1	15	32	19	13
Island Star	5	0	1	15	24	15	9
Shirley's	3	0	4	9	24	22	2
Matansa	2	0	3	6	14	17	-3
WNT	0	0	6	0	10	32	-22

SBL

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After giving up early runs to the Bears at the top of the first inning, the Mariners had a chance to counter at the bottom, as it loaded the bases with two outs. However, Nate Camacho, Eli Aughenbaugh, and Gary Gruz were left stranded, as Songao caught a fly from Nate Smith. Bears pitcher Jose Lizama struck out Ton Tenorio, while the latter's brother, Pat, went down on a 5-3 putout play

for the Mariners' first two outs.

After the missed opportunities at the bottom of the first, McGwire Iyekar put the Mariners on the board in the second when he scored off Pat Tenorio's sacrifice fly. The Mariners got their two other runs in the third and fourth with Jon Villagomez's single bringing in Smith and Jonah Flores reaching off Pat Tenorio's double to cut the deficit to 4, 3-7.

However, the Bears widened the gap anew, 12-3, as

they battled back from a scoreless top of the fourth by scoring five runs in the fifth. The Bears capitalized on the erratic defense of the Mariners as the defending champions got three runs off the latter's miscues. The Bears' two other runs were courtesy of Songao from a fielder's choice and A.J. Lizama off a base on ball.

Dela Cruz made it a double-digit lead for the Bears in the sixth inning, 13-3, when he reached off another Mariners'

defensive meltdown, while the last run in the one-sided game can also be credited to the designated hitter, as his single drove in Henry Lizama at the top of the seventh.

At the bottom of the seventh, the Mariners were called for three quick outs—the same unfortunate fate they had in the sixth—pushing the team on the brink.

The Mariners hope to stay alive in the finals series, as they gun for a win in Game 3 this Saturday.



**Astros only
team under
investigation**

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**Kawhi, PG3
suit up,
Clippers edge
Celtics in OT**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

32 FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2019

SBL title within Bears' reach

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

The Chalan Kanoa Bears are a win away from defending their title, as the 2018 champions dominated the Mariners, 14-3, in Game 2 of their finals series in the 2019 Saipan Baseball League last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Bears, who won Game 1 via forfeit, earned another easy victory in the best-of-five title series and moved closer to gaining back-to-back championships after scoring



five runs apiece in the first and fifth inning. Fred Songao hit an RBI triple and Ricardo Dela Cruz blasted an RBI single at the top of the first inning for the Bears.

Kiku Lizama, Angel Palacios, and Peyton Lizama scored the three other runs for the Bears, as they reached off the Mariners' errors.

The Henry Lizama Sr.-coached Bears added one run each in the second and third inning to remain in control. Kiku Lizama made it home anew in the second inning off a sacrifice out in the second inning, while Songao's single brought Dela Cruz home in the third.

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Chalan Kanoa Bears' Jose Lizama delivers a pitch, while the Mariners' Eli Augenbaugh gets ready to sprint to third base during Game 2 of their finals series in the 2019 Saipan Baseball League last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Daniel Kang makes a baseline return during his and Jun Wang's boys U16 doubles game against Anthony Gregoire and Jun Cheol Hwang in the 10th TanHoldings Tennis Classic last Sunday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan courts.

Kang and Wang survive tough matches

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

Daniel Kang and Jun Wang were unbeaten in three games to rule the boys U16 doubles event in the 10th TanHoldings Tennis Classic last weekend.

Though the duo earned an undefeated record in their division, it labored through these matches, as the three games were all decided via supertie-breaker third sets.

Kang and Wang first played Hyun Min Cho and

Andy Kim last Saturday morning at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan courts and eked out a 6-4, 2-6, 10-7 win. For their second victory, the eventual champions pulled off a 6-2, 2-6, 10-2 victory versus Isaac Heo and David Kwon at the Hyatt Regency Saipan courts last Sunday morning. In the afternoon of the same day, Kang and Wang played at the Fiesta court and escaped with a 2-6, 7-6 (5), 12-10 victory

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TanHoldings moves to first place

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

TanHoldings defeated Korean Football Association on

Saipan twice to grab the lead in the Division A of the 2019 Spring Men's M-League.

TanHoldings downed KFAS, 7-2, last Sunday at

the NMI Soccer Training Center for a fitting follow-up of its 9-2 victory in their Nov. 14 duel.

Kaden Church scored three



goals, while Ichiro Borja and Mark Esalan made two and one, respectively, in TanHoldings' triumph last weekend. For their first victory, Esalan had a hat trick, while Church and Jim Kirt Maniago added two apiece, and Ichiro and Aloyzeus Angeles tallied one each.

With the pair of victories, TanHoldings improved its win-draw-loss record to 5-0-2 and dislodged All Blue from the top spot. KFAS, which drew two goals each from Hwapyong Kim and Peter Oh in the back-to-back losses, remained at the bottom of the team standings with its 1-0-5 slate.

Meanwhile, All Blue, who had majority of its players in Cambodia to play for the CNMI Boys U19 National Team in the Asian Football

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

TanHoldings FC's Alan Hinson, left, falls down after colliding with Korean Football Association on Saipan's Jinsuk Kim during their Division A game in the 2019 Spring Men's M-League last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.